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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

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NEARBY

MEMU train to airport has very few takers

BENGALURU

It has been almost a month since the operation of MEMU train services to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) commenced, but patronage to the services has remained poor. The trains are running almost empty on a daily basis.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Vision document for healthcare sector

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai unveiled a vision document that, according to the State government, aims to outline a long-term plan for the holistic development of healthcare sector.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Controversy over Savarkar images

BELAGAVI

The issue of placing Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar's images in Ganesha mandals has taken an interesting turn in Belagavi, the city where he was imprisoned for over three months.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

Nitish govt. wins floor test in Bihar Assembly

Opposition members stage walkout from the House twice

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance, government won the floor test in the Assembly on Wednesday, while Opposition BJP legislators walked out of the session. Mr. Kumar proved his majority first by voice vote and then by counting of votes.

Earlier, Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha resigned from his post saying he would have quit earlier but wanted to respond to allegations of being a dictator and someone "who does things on his own, etc". Later, Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari conducted the proceedings.

When Mr. Hazari announced that the trust vote has been passed by voice vote, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhury requested him for a counting of votes which was promptly accepted by Mr. Hazari. But the Opposition BJP legislators who, earlier, had walked out from the House during Mr. Kumar's speech during the debate over the trust vote, suddenly re-entered the House and opposed the move as the "result of voice vote had already been announced" and walked out of the House again. Later, a total 160 MLAs voted in favour of the trust vote while no Opposition votes were counted.

Change of guard: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav greet Acting Speaker Maheshwar Hazari in the Assembly in Patna on Wednesday. • PTI

During the debate earlier, former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Tarkishore Prasad attacked Mr. Kumar for his regular flip-flops "to remain in the chair of CM" and also alleged that 75% of Ministers in the new government were tainted.

"He [Mr. Kumar] is a habitual turncoat. In 2013, he betrayed us only to join us again in 2017 and then again betrayed us. In the 2014 Lok Sabha election, his party got only two seats and in the 2020 Assembly poll, they got 43 seats and we 74, but we still made him the Chief Minister," said Mr. Prasad.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

CBI searches residences of RJD leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday conducted searches at the houses of several Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leaders said to be close to the family of party chief Lalu Prasad, in the land-for-Railway job scam case.

The action came ahead of the grand alliance government proving its majority in the Assembly.

The CBI raided the residences of RJD leaders – former MLC Subodh Rai, Rajya Sabha member Ashfaque Karim, MLC Sunil Singh and Faiyaz Ahmad – in the morning. It was also said that the CBI raided an under-construction mall in Gurugram allegedly owned by RJD leader and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav. However, Mr. Yadav strongly denied that it was owned by him.

The agency also searched the residences and business premises of RJD leaders Syed Abu Dojana and Subhas Yadav.

Criticising the action, the ruling JD(U) said: "People are watching all this."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

I do whatever party high command tells me: Gehlot

'I have been a disciplined soldier all my life. I will remain so'

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

A day after *The Hindu* reported that Congress president Sonia Gandhi had asked Ashok Gehlot to become the next party chief, the Rajasthan Chief Minister on Wednesday evaded a direct answer but said as a disciplined soldier, he does whatever the high command asks him to do.

Mr. Gehlot, however, was quick to add that right now, the high command has given him the responsibility to be the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and has made him a senior AICC observer for the Gujarat election.

"I am also hearing about it [Ms. Gandhi's suggestion for the party president's post] through the media," Mr. Gehlot told reporters in Ahmedabad. "Whatever responsibility the party high command has given me, I am performing them. I have been made a senior observer for the Gujarat election and that's why I am here. The other responsibility is that of being the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and there is no compromise there. I have to ensure our government is coming back to power there [Rajasthan]. I don't know anything else."

Wait and watch: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, along with AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal, left, speaking at a press conference in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. • PTI

Later, in response to a specific query from NDTV on whether he would be a candidate in the party's presidential poll, he said, "I never become the candidate. I do whatever the high command tells me. I have been a disciplined soldier all my life. I will remain so."

CWC meeting on Aug. 28

The exact dates for the presidential poll will be decided at the Congress Working Committee (CWC), announced general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal. "A virtual meeting of the CWC will be held on August 28 at 3.30 p.m. to approve the exact schedule of dates for the election of the Congress president. Congress president Smt. Sonia Gandhi will preside over the CWC meeting," he tweeted.

With former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi refusing to take back the reins of the party and concerns over Ms. Gandhi's health and age, the party could be forced to look beyond the Gandhi family.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Adani bid for NDTV to stifle media: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "*khaas dost*" (special friend) after reports emerged that the Gautam Adani-led Adani group has launched a hostile takeover of New Delhi Television (NDTV). The party described the move as an attempt to stifle the media.

"The news of a deeply over-leveraged company owned by the PM's '*khaas dost*' making a hostile takeover bid of a well-known TV news network is nothing but concentration of economic and political power, and a brazen move to control and stifle any semblance of an independent media," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Independent member of the Rajya Sabha Kapil Sibal criticised the takeover bid.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

SC Bench to revisit 2013 verdict on poll promises

Party cannot escape liability: advocate

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it will constitute a three-judge Bench to reconsider a 2013 judgment which held that pre-poll promises made by a political party cannot constitute a corrupt practice under the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

The *S. Subramaniam Balaji versus Government of Tamil Nadu* judgment, based on DMK's pre-election promise to distribute colour television sets to poor households in Tamil Nadu, said only an individual candidate, not his party, can commit a 'corrupt practice' under the RP Act by promising free gifts.

The *Balaji* judgment, by a two-judge Bench of the top court, came under the spotlight after nine years when a Bench led by Chief Justice N. V. Ramana was told on Wednesday that there cannot be a dichotomy between a political party and its candidate. What the candidate promises is what his party wants him to promise. The party cannot escape liability.

"A candidate makes a promise with the backing of his party. There cannot be a dichotomy between a candidate and his party," senior advocate Arvind P. Datar, who was also a lawyer in the *Balaji* case, submitted before CJI Ramana's Bench during a hearing on ways to rein in irrational freebies.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

WHY NOT AN ALL-PARTY MEET, COURT ASKS GOVT. ▸ PAGE 8

Court to hear review plea on PMLA today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to hear in open court a petition seeking a review of a July 27 judgment that upheld the core amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

A Review Bench of Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C.T. Ravikumar posted the plea for oral hearing on August 25.

The review petition was filed by Congress MP Karti Chidambaram.

The July verdict had given the government and the Enforcement Directorate virtually unbridled powers of summons, arrest and searches and made bail nearly impossible.

The top court had called the PMLA a law against the "scourge of money laundering" and not a hatchet to be wielded against rival politicians and dissenters.

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Commission: Bommai asks contractors' association to complain to Lokayukta

Kempanna accuses Horticulture Minister Munirathna of collecting bribes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With the Karnataka State Contractors' Association raising allegations about 40% commission in government contracts yet again, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday asked the association to file a complaint with the Lokayukta.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Bommai claimed there was no truth in the allegation, and urged the association to submit a petition with evidence to the anti-corruption watchdog to probe the charge.

A delegation of the contractors' association met Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

In July 2021, the association had shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a complaint that they had to pay up to "40% commission" to MLAs and Ministers, stirring up a hornets' nest.

Association president D. Kempanna said on Wednesday that it would write to Mr. Modi again now, since the complaint has not been addressed.

Responding to this, Mr. Bommai said: "Mere allegations without substance will not work. Let the association give a complaint to the Lokayukta with documents to prove their allegation of corruption."

"There are judicial officers in the Lokayukta to probe the allegation. Officials have the freedom to probe charges of corruption," he said. He questioned the credibility of the contractors' association, pointing out that they made the allegations after meeting Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 3

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

State revenues

7-9 The % to which States' revenue growth will slide in FY23 according to a report by Crisil. The revenue growth had galloped 25% in FY22 due to a lower base in the pandemic-affected FY21, the report by rating agency Crisil, which analysed 17 States accounting for 90% of the aggregate Gross domestic product (GSDP), said. The agency's senior director Anuj Sethi said the biggest impetus to the revenue growth will come from aggregate State GST collections, which had already rebounded by 29% in FY22. PTI

Aid for Ukraine

2.98 In billion $, the amount President Joe Biden announced for new military aid to Ukraine that will enable forces there to fight for years to come. As Russia's war on Ukraine drags on, U.S. security assistance is shifting to a longer-term campaign that will also likely keep more American military troops in Europe in the future. Wednesday is Ukraine's independence day holiday and the six-month point in the war. Earlier shipments had focused more on Ukraine's more immediate needs for weapons and ammunition. AP

Drought in Europe

3 The number of months for which parts of the European Union could face warmer and drier conditions as Europe weathers a major drought that has fuelled forest fires, dried up rivers and devastated crops. Almost half of the 27-nation EU is under drought warning, with conditions worsening in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Water shortages and heat stress are also reducing European crop yields, with maize, soybeans, and sunflowers being the hardest hit. AP

ICC ODI rankings

45 The number of places Indian opener Shubman Gill jumped to be ranked 38th in the ICC ODI rankings released on Wednesday. The 22-year-old youngster had a memorable outing in the recently concluded three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe that also saw him scoring his maiden ton (130 off 97 balls) in the last game. Meanwhile, former Indian skipper Virat Kohli, who did not feature in the series against Zimbabwe, held on to his fifth position. Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who also rested in the Zimbabwe series, was static in the sixth spot. PTI

NDTV stock zooms

5 The % by which NDTV's share price rose, hitting the upper circuit in opening trade, a day after the Adani group launched a hostile bid to take over the media house. NDTV shares surged far beyond the price Adani Group said it would pay in a subsequent mandatory open offer that could take its stake over 55%. The stock climbed 5% to ₹384.50 — its upper circuit limit as well as 52-week high — on the BSE after beginning the trade on a positive note. The open offer to acquire an additional 26% is worth nearly ₹493 crore and the offer price is ₹294 per share. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Why is an amendment to the already existing Indian Competition Act necessary?

THE GIST

- As the dynamics of the market changes due to technological advancements, artificial intelligence, and the increasing importance of factors other than price, amendments became necessary to sustain and promote market competition. The long-awaited Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002, was finally tabled in the Lok Sabha recently.
- Some of the major amendments include allowing the commission to give an additional waiver of penalties to an applicant who discloses the existence of another cartel in an unrelated market, giving the Commission authority to appoint the DG rather than the Central government etc.
- By implementing these amendments, the Commission should be better equipped to handle certain aspects of the new-age market and transform its functioning to be more robust.

G.S. BAJPAI
ANKIT SRIVASTAVA

The story so far: The Indian Competition Act was passed in 2002, but it came into effect only seven years later. The Competition Commission primarily pursues three issues of anti-competitive practices in the market: anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominance and combinations. As the dynamics of the market changes rapidly due to technological advancements, artificial intelligence, and the increasing importance of factors other than price, amendments became necessary to sustain and promote market competition. Therefore, a review committee was established in 2019 which proposed several major amendments. The long-awaited Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002, was finally tabled in the Lok Sabha recently.

What is the major change in dealing with new-age market combinations?
Any acquisition, merger or amalgamation may constitute a combination. Section 5 currently says parties indulging in merger, acquisition, or amalgamation need to notify the Commission of the combination only on the basis of 'asset' or 'turnover'. The new Bill proposes to add a 'deal value' threshold. It will be mandatory to notify the Commission of any transaction with a deal value in excess of ₹2,000 crore and if either of the parties has 'substantial business operations in India'. The Commission shall frame regulations to prescribe the requirements for assessing whether an enterprise has 'substantial business operations in India'. This change will strengthen the Commission's review mechanism, particularly in the digital and infrastructure space, a majority of which were not reported earlier, as the asset or turnover values did not meet the jurisdictional thresholds.

When business entities are willing to execute a combination, they must inform the Commission. The Commission may approve or disapprove the combination, keeping in mind the appreciable adverse effect on competition that is likely to be caused. The Commission earlier had 210 days to approve the combination, after which it is automatically approved. The new Bill seeks to accelerate the timeline from 210 working days to only 150 working days with a conservatory period of 30 days for extensions. This will speed up the clearance of combinations and increase the importance of pre-filing consultations with the Commission.

What is gun-jumping?
Parties should not go ahead with a combination prior to its approval. If the combining parties close a notified transaction before the approval, or have consummated a reportable transaction without bringing it to the Commission's knowledge, it is seen as gun-jumping. The penalty for gun-jumping was a total of 1% of the asset or turnover. This is now proposed to be 1% of the deal value.

What challenge do combining parties face in open market purchases?
There have been several gun-jumping cases owing to the combining parties' inability to defer the consummation of open market purchases. Many of them argue that acquisitions involving open market purchase of target shares must be completed quickly, lest the stock value and total consideration undergo a change. If parties wait for the Commission's clearance, the transaction may become unaffordable.

Similar to the European Union merger regulations, the present amendment Bill also proposes to exempt open market purchases and stock market transactions from the requirement to notify them to the Commission in advance. This is subject to the condition that the acquirer does not exercise voting or ownership rights until the transaction is approved and the same is notified to the Commission subsequently.

Does the amendment Bill address the issue of Hub-and-Spoke Cartels?
A Hub-and-Spoke arrangement is a kind of cartelisation in which vertically related players act as a hub and place horizontal restrictions on suppliers or retailers (spokes). Currently, the prohibition on anti-competitive agreements only covers entities with similar trades that engage in anti-competitive practices. This ignores hub-and-spoke cartels operated at different levels of the vertical chain by distributors and suppliers. To combat this, the amendment broadens the scope of 'anti-competitive agreements' to catch entities that facilitate cartelisation even if they are not engaged in identical trade practices.

What is the amendment to the 'settlements' and 'commitments' mechanisms?
The new amendment proposes a framework for settlements and commitments for cases relating to vertical agreements and abuse of dominance. In the case of vertical agreements and abuse of dominance, the parties may apply for a 'commitment' before the Director General (DG) submits the report. 'Settlement' will be considered after the report is submitted and before the Commission decides. According to the amendment, the Commission's decision regarding commitment or settlement will not be appealable after hearing all stakeholders in the case. The Commission will come out with regulations regarding procedural aspects.

What are the other major amendments?
In the amendment Bill, a provision called 'Leniency Plus' allows the commission to give an additional waiver of penalties to an applicant who discloses the existence of another cartel in an unrelated market, provided the information enables the Commission to form a prima facie opinion about the existence of the cartel. Other noteworthy amendments include the appointment of the DG by the Commission rather than the Central government, giving the Commission greater control. According to the Bill, the DG has the power to conduct investigations, including raids. The Commission will only consider information filed within three years of the occurrence of the cause of action. As part of the Bill, penalties and penalty guidelines are proposed to be amended. For any false information filed, a penalty of five crore will be imposed, and for failure to comply with the Commission directions, a penalty of ₹10 crore will be imposed. Additionally, the Commission will develop guidelines regarding the amount of penalties for various competition violations. For an appeal to be heard by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against the Commission's order, the party will have to deposit 25% of the penalty amount.

What next?
By implementing these amendments, the Commission should be better equipped to handle certain aspects of the new-age market and transform its functioning to be more robust. The proposed amendments are undoubtedly needed; however, these are heavily dependent on regulations that will be notified by the Commission later. These regulations will influence the proposals. Also, the government needs to recognise that market dynamics change constantly, so it is necessary to update laws regularly.

G. S. Bajpai is the Vice-Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab where Ankit Srivastava is Assistant Professor

EXPLAINER

The 'tomato flu' outbreak and the Centre's advisory

What are the symptoms of the flu? Why are experts against calling the infection 'tomato flu'?

SUMEDA

The story so far: Days after a paper in *The Lancet* journal raised concerns over the rise in cases of the "new virus known as tomato flu" among children in India, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday issued an advisory, asking States to take measures to prevent its spread. In a set of guidelines, the Centre referred to the disease as a probable variant of the hand, foot and mouth disease, or HFMD, which commonly occurs in children under 10 years of age and can also infect adults. As per the *Lancet* paper, India recorded around 100 cases of 'tomato flu' in children below nine years of age in less than three months. The transmission of the "highly contagious" yet "non-life-threatening virus" could lead to serious consequences by spreading to adults as well, it adds.

What does *The Lancet* report say?
In the article 'Tomato flu outbreak in India', published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* journal on August 17, the authors define the infection as a "new virus" that has emerged in Kerala in children younger than five years. The report, however, contradicts itself by also claiming the infection to be in an endemic state. 'Endemic'is a term used to refer to a disease which has spread in a limited area but has been around for some time. The report further claims that 'tomato flu' was first identified in the Kollam district of Kerala on May 6 this year. However, a study published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine in its *Immunity, Inflammation and Disease* journal in July says that cases of 'tomato fever' have been reported in the past in 2007 as well.

The authors do not mention a specific origin, type or cause of the infection. They suggest that it may be an after-effect of chikungunya or dengue fever in children rather than a viral infection, or that the virus could also be a new variant of the HFMD — a common viral infection affecting young children that appears with fever, rashes or blisters on the skin and mouth sores.

What are experts saying?
As far as its etymology is concerned, the *Lancet* report claims that the 'tomato flu' is so named because of the "eruption of red and painful blisters throughout the body that gradually enlarge to the size of a tomato." Medical experts have taken strong exception to this, saying that the usage of such terms is unscientific and misleading. They also clarify that the infection is not related to the consumption of tomatoes in any way.

"Tomato fever is a misleading colloquial name for hand, foot, and mouth disease. This is a mild viral illness

commonly affecting young children typically below age 10. It is usually caused by a Coxsackie virus... It produces red spots on the skin, and hence someone called it 'tomato fever', and the name became popular. But using such terms is misleading because many people mistakenly believe it comes from tomatoes," Indian Medical Association (IMA) member Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan was quoted as saying by news agency *ANI*.

Hyderabad-based paediatrician Dr. Suresh Kumar Panuganti shared a similar view with *The Hindu*. "'Tomato flu' is caused by Coxsackievirus A16. It belongs to the Enterovirus family. HFMD is a frequent febrile rash illness of childhood caused by enteroviruses (EV): Coxsackie A16 (CA16), EV A71, Coxsackie A6, Coxsackie B and Echo viruses."

Another doctor said such reports cause panic. "The community is just recovering from COVID and therefore is very sensitive and receptive to new endemics. Additionally, this type of news creates panic," Dr. Dhiren Gupta of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital told *ANI*.

Virologist Dr. Angela Rasmussen has also highlighted the lack of evidence in the report published by *The Lancet*. In a series of tweets, she said that the paper had failed to establish some crucial points related to 'tomato flu'. She also pointed out that the paper was published in the 'correspondence' section of *The Lancet*. According to the medical journal's website, 'correspondence' news or discussions are not normally externally peer-reviewed.

What did the advisory state?
In its communication on Tuesday, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that the illness is a clinical variant of the HFMD. The Ministry, however, also used the term 'tomato flu' in the advisory. The Ministry clarified that the virus causing 'tomato flu' is not related to SARS-CoV-2, monkeypox, dengue, or chikungunya despite symptoms similar to those in viral infections. "It seems the disease is a clinical variant of the so-called hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) that is common in school-going children. Infants and young children are also prone to this infection through the use of nappies, touching unclean surfaces as well as putting things directly into the mouth," the Centre said. It is a self-limiting illness and no specific medication exists for its treatment yet, it said.

On symptoms, the Centre said a child infected with 'tomato flu' will have fever, rashes and pain in joints. The illness usually begins with a mild fever, poor appetite, malaise, and occasionally, a sore throat. Small red blisters appear one or two days after the fever and these sores are usually located on the tongue, gums, inside of the cheeks, palms and soles. In some cases, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, swelling of joints, body ache, and common influenza-like symptoms have also been noted.

It advised isolation for five to seven days from the onset of any symptom to prevent the spread of infection. Other guidelines mentioned in the report include supportive therapy of paracetamol for fever and body ache as well as other symptomatic treatments, a nutrition-rich, balanced diet to boost immunity, rest, plenty of fluids and a hot water sponge to provide relief from irritation and rashes etc.

THE GIST

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A month on, MEMU train to airport has very few takers

South Western Railway will hold meet with stakeholders to increase ridership

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

It has been almost a month since the operation of MEMU train services to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) commenced, but patronage to the services has remained poor. The trains are running almost empty on a daily basis.

The South Western Railway (SWR) is operating seven pairs of trains, including five pairs of MEMU trains. Last week, the maximum number of passengers travelling per train did not cross 25 and there were instances of only three or four people travelling in the train. The MEMU train has six coaches and a carrying capacity of 100 per coach.

Officials say average revenue generated is around ₹800 per day. It costs up to ₹35 to travel in a MEMU train to reach the airport.

Realisng that the ridership is not going to pick up on its own, officials of the SWR are holding a meeting with various stakeholders, including Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of the KIA, and others.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager Kusuma Hariprasad said, "Response to the airport trains services has remained poor. There is a need to promote the services among the people working on the campus of the airport and among air passengers. On Friday, we will hold a meeting with the officials concerned of BIAL and other organisations. During the meeting, we will brief them on how economical and beneficial the train services are. Employees working at the airport can also travel in these trains using monthly passes that costs around ₹300. To popularise the services, we are also planning to rope in celebrities and organisations."

BIAL has displayed the schedule of train services at the terminal area.

No. of passengers travelling to and fro

Date	No. of passengers who deboarded at KIA Halt station	No. of passengers who boarded at KIA Halt station
August 15	23	12
August 16	18	3
August 17	10	4
August 18	20	7
August 19	18	9
August 20	18	12
August 21	No train	No train
August 22	10	8
August 23	7	14

- Five pairs of DEMU trains were introduced to KIA Halt station on January 4, 2021
- Services of above trains were suspended on April 29, 2021
- Services were reintroduced with two pairs of DEMU trains from November 10, 2021
- Additional five pairs of MEMU trains were introduced from July 29, 2022

Meanwhile, BIAL has put up the train schedules at the terminal areas and others for the consumption of the air passengers. It has also reached out to cargo concessionaires, construction companies, airlines and others to encourage their employees to use the services. "At the workplaces, notices and other areas, information on airport train services have been provided. Through HRs of the organisations concerned, information has been disseminated to their employees. We have also put up signage in the terminal area informing passengers about the shuttle services available to reach the halt station," a spokesperson of the BIAL said.

At present, more than 28,000 employees are working in various sectors.

'Economical'

Air passengers, who have used the train services to reach the airport, said that it is economical and convenient compared to other modes of transport.

Vijay Raj, who runs a travel business, opted for a MEMU train to reach the airport. "While travelling from Hosur to Bengaluru, I found out that train services are available to the Bengaluru airport, but when I checked with my friends, they were not aware of the trains. I took the MEMU train from Cantonment with my family members. The train left the station around 4 p.m. and reached the halt station around 4.50 p.m. I found travelling comfortable. Surprisingly, there were hardly a few people travelling in the train; the entire train was empty. The halt station at KIA is good and shuttle service to the terminal area helped a lot."

Rail activist Sanjeev Dyamannavar said that they should identify the feasibility of running trains from multiple locations for the benefit of the general public and reduce the travel time. "Trains that are operated till Yelahanka must be extended till Yeshwanthpur or Baiyappanahalli. Because of metro links, there will be more patronage for the services."

Bescom files complaint with cyber police as online fraud continues

IT employees targeted the most

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

With online fraud cases where miscreants pose as electricity officers continuing despite warnings, the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) on Wednesday filed a complaint with the Cyber Economic and Narcotics Crime Police Station (CEN).

Many incidents of these fraudsters sending bill payment-related text messages to Bescom customers and conning them have been reported in the last few weeks.

The target of these fraud cases has mostly been IT employees who are asked to pay the bill immediately to avoid disconnection of electricity, through a fake link. Bescom has issued several media ads and run campaigns asking customers to not pay heed to such messages and not to share OTPs or any other personal details or send money.

"Many of our customers have paid electricity bill through the link sent by online fraudsters. Bescom has neither called customers nor sent any messages for payment of electricity bill. Despite repeated awareness campaigns, a few customers have been conned by the cyber fraudsters," Bescom General Manager (Customer Relations) S.R. Nagaraj stated in the complaint.

After several customers dialled 1912, Bescom's helpline number, to complain about receiving the SMS which asked them to pay bills, the officials filed a complaint. The police have begun investigation and traced some calls and messages to West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The officers said that they have shared the same information with the police of the respective States.

In a press release, Bescom urged its customers to pay electricity bills only at Bescom billing counters, on the Bescom Mitra App, or Bescom online portal.

Woman, associate arrested on charge of abducting civil engineer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Byatarayanapura police on Wednesday arrested 30-year-old Pushpa, who, along with three of her associates, allegedly abducted a civil engineer and extorted a ransom of ₹25 lakh at gunpoint.

Pushpa, who runs an NGO, had lured the victim by offering to get him a government project using her contacts and invited him home on August 18 on the pretext of discussing about the projects.

The accused later tied up the victim's hands and legs, gagged him, and tortured him demanding ₹4 crore. The accused later brought down the ransom amount to ₹25 lakh after several rounds of negotiation and released him, the police said. Pushpa had even threatened the victim that she would file a rape charges against him, the police said.

Battered and bruised, the victim was admitted to Victoria Hospital for treatment, and the doctors, considering the nature of injuries, informed the police.

The police questioned the victim and recorded his statement before tracking down Pushpa and her associate Rakesh, 27, and recovered ₹20 lakh and an air gun from them. The police are now on the lookout for two more accused.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing

ENIT No.: 2022_FD_184928_1
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
for
Preparation of Revision Document of J&K Action Plan for Climate Change

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing (DoEERS) of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), is inviting the services of a reputed technical organization for the revision of the UT Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The interested organizations may submit the Request for Proposal (RFP) by providing required information as given in the RFP document. The RFP document containing full details of the assignment and technical requirements, along with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the official website of the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Government (http://www.jkdoears.com) or the e-tendering portal at http://www.jktenders.gov.in. The tenders shall be submitted online on J&K e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in up to the closing date and time as indicated in the tender document.
The important details pertaining to the submission of the RFP are as under:

S. No.	Particular	Detail
1	Title of the work	Preparation of Revision Document of J&K Action Plan for Climate Change
2	Estimated cost (INR)	Approx. 20.00 lacs
3	Publishing Date	22.08.2022 at 1500 Hrs
4	Document Download start date	22.08.2022 from 1730 Hrs
5	Last date to receive requests for clarification of RFP (The bidder may email such requests at mail id: drjkeirs@gmail.com)	26.08.2022 upto 1300 Hrs
6	Bid submission start date	26.08.2022 from 1800 Hrs.
7	Bid submission end date	05.09.2022 at 1800 Hrs
8	Bid opening and evaluation date	07.09.2022 at 1100 Hrs
9	Declaration of successful bidder	To be notified later
10	Eligibility of tenderer	Please refer the tender document.
11	Tender language	English
12	Tender cost	Nil
13	Project period/Period of completion of work	3 months from the date of issuance of work order.
17	Position of funds	Sanctioned
14	Tender Rejection criteria	a) If financial details are provided in technical bid. b) If the tenderer does not fulfill the eligibility criteria underlined in the RFP. c) If the tenderer fails to submit copy of PAN card/GST registration certificate as applicable. d) Conditional bids are liable to be rejected. e) If the information provided by the bidder is found to be incorrect/misleading at any stage/time during the tendering process. f) Any effort on the part of the bidder to influence the bid evaluation. g) Bids without signature of the authorized person h) Incomplete bids
15	Currency	INR
16	Type of Bid / Offer	Lump sum offer including all taxes and services
17	Security Deposit	Successful Bidder/Organization has to execute a Performance Guarantee bond of 3% of value of the contract to be deposited along with the signing of contract.
18	Contact Person of the Tender Inviting Authority	Dr. Majid Farooq, Jr. Scientist (HQ) Mobile No. 9419651345, email:majid.farooq@jk.gov.in

The DoEERS reserves the right to reject any or all the RFPs without assigning any reasons thereof.

Staff Officer to Director,
Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing
J&K, Govt.
Jammu/Srinagar

DIP/K-8465/22

Bad road claims another life

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 44-year-old regional manager of a private firm succumbed to severe head injuries on Monday after falling off his motorcycle, allegedly due to a bad patch of road in Herohalli on Magadi Road last Thursday.

The deceased, Suprith J., was a resident of Syndicate Layout in Herohalli. According to the police, he was on his way to work when the accident occurred around 12.30 p.m.

The police said Suprith was riding near Ramraj Granites when his two-wheeler slipped into a pothole and lost balance. He fell on the road sustaining severe head injuries. Passers-by, with the help of autorickshaw drivers, rushed him to the Herohalli government hospital. He was later shifted to a private hospital in Malleswaram where he succumbed to injuries around 4 a.m. on Monday.

Suprith's brother Surakshit has filed a complaint with the Byadarahalli police stating that he got a phone call informing him about Suprith sustaining severe head injuries due to a pothole on the road.

The Byadarahalli police, however, have registered a case against Suprith charging him under rash and negligent driving and death due to negligence.

Two held for stealing 16 bikes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Madiwala police on Wednesday arrested one and held a juvenile for allegedly stealing 16 bikes worth ₹12 lakh in the last few months.

The accused would move around residential areas to identify bikes parked outside the house and break the locks. The accused would then direct the ignition wiring to start and sped away.

The accused had sold the expensive bikes for ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 promising to get the documents. This money the accused would blow on vices and dining at expensive restaurants and shopping, said the police.

Based on a series of bike theft complaints, C.K. Baba, DCP, south-east division, formed a special team who managed to identify the accused through CCTV footage and track them down.

Intermittent power supply today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be intermittent power supply on Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for carrying out maintenance works.

According to a press release from Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), Jayanagar division, the areas that will be affected are: 66/11 kV Padmanabhanagar, Banagirinagar, Jayanagar 7th Block, Banashankari II Stage, BDA Complex, Channammanakere Achhukattu, Rajivnagar, Padmanabnagar, Yarabanagar, Shastrinagar, S9 sub-division premises, 9th Main.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that My Client **Smt.Supriya.N,** has intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from the owner Sri Syed Ahmed if any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your claims, within **12 days** from the date of Publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by any body and my Client will proceed for completion of Sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and Parcel of the **Site No.1262,** PID No.65-51-1262, formed in Sy.No.77/2, situated at **BTM 2nd Stage (EWS) 1st Phase, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Nagara, Bangalore,** measuring East to West: 6.00 meters & North to South: 8.40 Meters in all measuring **50.40 sq.mtrs.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
Khanij Nigam Bhawan, Doranda Ranchi – 834002.
CIN- U14290JH2002SGC012170
E-mail- contact@jsmdc.in Phone No. 0651-2491841/2491842
Website :www.jsmdc.in Fax No. – 0651/2491916

Notice Inviting Tender
Notice No.: 03/2022-23 dated 24.08.2022

Subject: Notice Inviting Tender for Selection of Management Consultant cum Transaction Advisory (MCTA) for Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (Hereinafter referred to as JSMDC) is a State-owned agency which is engaged in the development of mineral resources, including scientific exploration, commercial exploitation and trading of minerals, to facilitate the development of minerals-based industries. JSMDC wishes to engage a consultancy firm for management consultancy cum transaction advisory services to JSMDC vide the published RFP No. **03/2022-23**. It is to be informed that the last tender bearing RFP No. 01/2022-23 dated 07.06.2022, published for the same purpose is here by cancelled.
The interested Bidders shall submit their bid in sealed physical envelope as per the methodology prescribed in the RFP document. Bidder shall clearly mention "RFP No. **03/2022-23**" "Selection of Management Consultant cum Transaction Advisory (MCTA) for Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd." along with the Tender Fee of INR 5,900/- (INR Five Thousand and Nine hundred only) inclusive of GST (Non-refundable)in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of "Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd." payable at Ranchi or in the form of RTGS/NEFT transfer (Details for RTGS/NEFT transfer as per bid data sheet).
The interested bidder shall also submit the EMD of INR 9,00,000(INR Nine Lakh) along with their bid in the form of a Demand Draft issued by a Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, in favour of "Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd" payable at Ranchi or in the form of RTGS/NEFT transfer (Details for RTGS/NEFT transfer as per RFP) or in the form of a Bank Guarantee (Format of BG provided in RFP).
The complete set of Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded from the JSMDC website https://www.jsmdc.in/web/Tenders.php from date 25.08.2022. The payment made for purchase of Tender Documents would be non-refundable in nature. The last date for submission of tender is up to 3 PM on 27.09.2022 and the same shall be opened on 29.09.2022. For any information please contact Shri Karun Kumar Chandan, In-charge Establishment JSMDC.

Sd/-
In-Charge, Establishment,
JSMDC Limited

PR.NO.276339 Jharkhand State Mineral Dev Co Ltd(22-23):D

Government of Jharkhand
DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY &CO-OPERATIVE (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DIVISION)
Jharkhand, Ranchi.
Part- A

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE VETERINARY CLINIC VAN WITH FABRICATION
eTender No. 01/2022-23

Director Animal Husbandry, Government of Jharkhand Ranchi invites online e-Tender from original Vehicle Manufacturers or their authorized Distributors/Dealers for Supply of three Mobile Veterinary Clinic Van with Fabrication as per the Schedule of Requirements given in Annexure-5 to the tender documents with detailed specifications in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial bid.

1. After publication of the N.I.T., the desirous bidders may download tender documents along with terms & conditions from the Website. https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in and https://www.jharkhand.gov.in but submit only through **NIC e-tender portal https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in** with the help of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
2. Disclosure of rate other than financial bid will disqualify the bidder.
3. Estimated Contract Value- Rs 0.60Cr.
4. Bid Validity Period – 180 days.
5. Each tenderer, will have to deposit Tender fee in form of DD of Rs 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) which is non-refundable and Earnest Money **Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh fifty thousand) in form of Bank Guarantee(BG),** of any nationalized Bank in favour of Director Animal Husbandry,"- Jharkhand payable at Ranchi. **Fees are being relaxed for MSEs of Jharkhand, however proper documents regarding relaxation should be attached.**
6. The under mentioned schedule is fixed; however, the undersigned reserves the right to change the date of activities in case of any exigencies through a notice in the government of Jharkhand website & Notice Board at official address Director, Animal Husbandry, Pashupalan Bhawan, Hesag, Hatia Ranchi Pin-834003.

Important Events

1	Floating of Tender	24.08.2022
2	Download of tender document will start from	25.08.2022
3	Pre Bid Meeting	26.08.2022
4	Online submission of bid will start from	29.08.2022
5	Last date for receiving EMD & Tender fee (in original Tender fee in form of D.D & EMD as BG in Animal Husbandry directorate Office, physically) and Sample of Mobile Veterinary Clinic Van with Fabrication as an animated Video through a Pen drive	12.09.2022
6	Last date of online bid submission	13.09.2022
7	Date of Opening of Technical bid	16.09.2022
8	Date of Opening of Financial bid	Declared Later

PR. 276280 Animal Husbandry(22-23)D

Director Animal Husbandry Jharkhand Ranchi

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VIIIth ADDL, CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-15) AT BANGALORE ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 2743 OF 2019

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007, & having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C Wing, Mittal Tower, MG Road, Bangalore-560 001 and represented by its POA holder and Manager
Mr. Manoj Kumar S, S/o. Somashekar V.G.
Age: 33 Years. ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mrs. P. Selvi
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication
To,
Defendant:
Mrs. P Selvi,
Aged about 29 years,
Daughter of Vallakann Pandyan, Wife of Deepak,
R/at. 25K, 19/1, GNR Garden, Opp: CBR Construction, Near Bus Stop, Babusapalya, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore- 560 043.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs.5.15,988/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred And Eighty Eight Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court (CCH-15), in person or by a pleader on the 29th Day of September 2022 at 11:00 a.m. to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 29 day of July 2022

By the order of the court
Asst Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED, B.M.KUSHALAPPA, Advocates, No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560001.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VIIIth ADDL, CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-15) AT BANGALORE ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 2744 OF 2019

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007, & having its Branch Office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C Wing, Mittal Tower, MG Road, Bangalore-560 001 and represented by its POA holder and Manager
Mr. Manoj Kumar S, S/o Somashekar V.G.
Age: 33 Years. ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mrs. Tejaswini
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication
To,
Defendant:
Mrs. Tejaswini,
Aged about 27 years,
Daughter of Janakiram,
Wife of Barry Nixon, R/at.# 19, Jyothi Nivas, Door No. 401, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, Near Railway Track, Bangalore-560 093.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 2,94,704- (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred And Four Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court (CCH-15), in person or by a pleader on the 29th Day of September 2022 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 29 day of July 2022

By the order of the Court
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED, B.M. KUSHALAPPA, Advocates, No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560 001.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUVARNA @ Suvarna Baburao Wali W/o Rakesh Veeresh, R/a Flat No.601, Koncept Nakshtra, 2nd Mn, 17th Crs, A.P.Nagar, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stg, Bluru-72 have changed my name to Suvarna Wali vide affidavit dt: 24.08.2022 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I, MAMTA Khari D/o Prakash Chand spouse of Sandeep Bhati, R/at SMQ No.21/3, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Mamta Khari to Mamta Bhati, vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 before Notary H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, SONAM D/o Mahesh Kumar Verma, R/at Co: Padmapriya, H.No.19, Opp. Mahilasamaja, 4th Main, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Sonam to Sonam Verma vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, KHUSBOO D/o Mahesh Kumar Verma, R/at Co: Padmapriya, H.No.19, Opp: Mahilasamaja, 4th Main, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Khusboo to Khushboo Verma vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 before Notaty H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, PREETI D/o Hariom Singh spouse of Ajay Kumar, R/at Site No.6, Bharati Nagar, H M Halli, Bangalore-562157, have changed my name from Preeti to Preeti Kumari vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, SUMAN D/o Ganesh Das spouse of Ravinder Kumar, R/o Chikaajinappa Building, Kodagalahatti, Hosahalli Road, H M Halli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name from Suman to Suman Das vide affidavit dated 10-08-2022 before Notary H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, LINET Vorkady, R/at No.91, Alpha Beanys Lakeside Habitat Apartment, No.8, Shantivana, Behind Sterling Apartment, Sanjeevini Nagar, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru-560092, have changed my name to Linet D'Souza, vide affidavit dated 18-08-2022 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

BUSINESS OFFER

ARE YOU Need Business Loan Minimum 1Crore & Above Ct : 8122109759

PUBLIC NOTICE

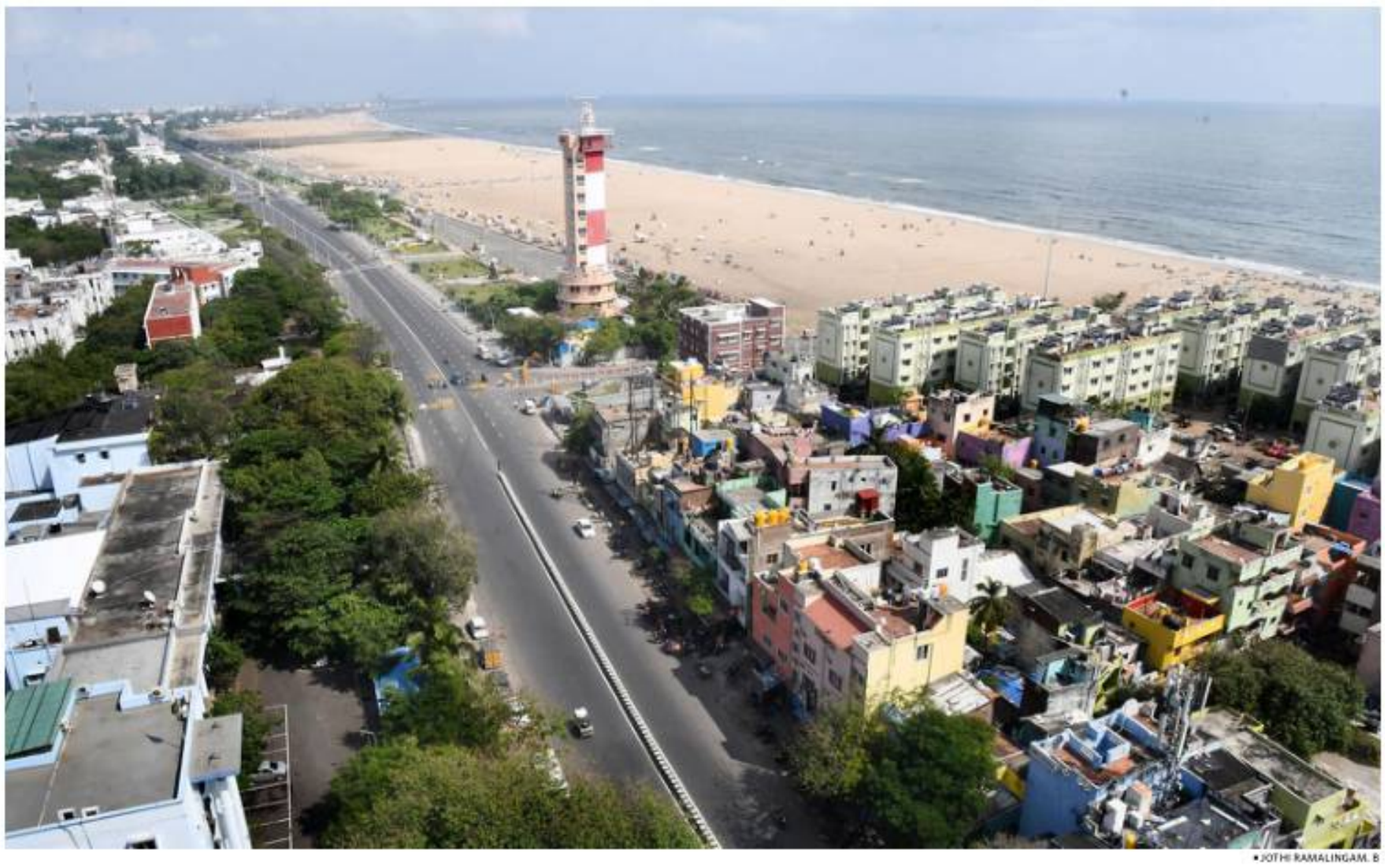
I, SAGAR Philip S/o Philip Raj B, aged abt 26 yrs, R/a No.16, 2nd Floor, Johns Cottage, St Pauls School Road, Opp Kingdom Court Apt, Chelekere, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560043 hereby declare that my names i.e., Sagar instead of Sagar Philip are one and the same and it refers to me only vide affidavit dt: 24.08.2022 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'lore.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Materials Management Division

e-Tenders are invited for the following.
1. Purchase of 7 items of Railway Track Materials.
2. Purchase of 73 Items of Generic Medicines.
For further details/corrigendum, if any Visit www.chennaiport.gov.in www.eprocure.gov.in
e-Auctions are invited for the disposal of Plants and Machineries/Handicraft-Artifacts Items/Scrap in "as is where is" condition. e-Auction will be conducted by M/s.MSTC Ltd. For further details/ corrigendum, if any, visit www.mstcecommerce.com, www.chennaiport.gov.in

Chief Mechanical Engineer



• JOTHI RAMALINGAM. B

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Living in Chennai, celebrating Madras

During Madras Week, chronicles of the past and present of an old city, with one eye on the future

RAMYA KANNAN

It is always a debate, at least in one's head, for folks from this southern city. Is it Chennai, is it Madras? Which one do we pick? Is one really a city, and the other, an emotion? For a city that is celebrating its 383rd birthday this week, this question has always been simmering under the surface, since the name change in 1996. It glistens like the mirage the city roads become, under a blazing sun on a hot May noon, forcing one to choose, but also frustrating the choice. It's not a judgement, whatever one decides, about whether you care or not, because despite what you pick, this city is an invitation to be a destination, the place you chose to be yours, where you live your life and the only city where you come to retire and roost. S. Muthiah was very clear. For the late author and historian, this city was Madras, and he was, in some senses, the grand old man of Madras. Much of what we know about this city and its rich colonial heritage we owe to him. A talented raconteur, especially in person, enriched by a sparkle in his eye, and his tongue mostly in his cheek, Muthiah celebrated Madras, he wrote Madras out. Revising his books over several volumes, he chronicled a past but one that sashayed its way into the present, with an eye on the future. For how else do you describe a living city?

Guided by nostalgia

His 1981 book, *Madras Discovered* subsequently retitled *Madras Rediscovered* ran into several editions, was probably the beginning of the pursuit. A historical book that's all nostalgia, is a guide for those who wish to find out more about his city. It's what he discovered, through research, some solid leg work, speaking to the old families of Chennai, and some gossip, and he presents it to his readers. With some fascinating black and white pictures and maps, the book spans a wide berth in Muthiah's usual style – industry, governance, politics, films, food, streets and gutters – because there was nothing that did not interest him. He said the book merely scratched the surface; there were several more books the city held in the bosom, ready to give it up to those who teased it out of her. So Muthiah had many more books – including *Madras Miscellany*, a collection of his columns that appeared in *The Hindu Metro Plus*.

Counting itself among the city's own, *The Hindu* has brought out a couple of publications that showcase the metro, shining a light on its mutability, capturing the nostalgia caught in the web between the years. *Icons of Madras* and *Memories of Madras* help us learn about the city from its landmarks and celebrities, past and present.

Counting itself among the city's own, *The Hindu* has brought out a couple of publications showcasing the metro and shining a light on its mutability

If you have spent time with Muthiah's books, then, do spend some time with A.R. Venkatachalapathy's compendium: *Chennai not Madras: Perspectives on the City*. He harnesses his bilingual prowess to place himself on the other side of the Madras-Chennai spectrum, sitting comfortable with the latter, over the 'anglicisation' of the former. The book is a wonderful compendium of articles by a range of people, discussing vignettes and issues dredged up from the Tamil past of the city - Vallalar, Ayothidas, Potti Sriramulu, the labour movement, Ashokamitran, Prabanjan.

Coffee and history

If it's a warm, emotionally-connected, enchantingly-told point of view you are looking for, then, Nirmala Lakshman's *Degree Coffee by the Yard* is essential reading. A short biography of Madras, packaged so it could fit into a large pocket, the book contains sharp observations about the city by someone who has lived there many years, grew up in it and acknowledges the contradictions it holds. So, naturally, the author dips into Madras and reaches for Chennai, subtly melding one into the other, letting us know that they both come from one.

Two coffee table books on Chennai that will be a valuable addition to bookshelves are *Madras Inked*, and *Madras Then/Chennai Now*. While the former, released during the pandemic, is a visual collection of ink drawings by Manohar Devadoss, and notes on them by architect Sujatha Sankar, the latter harks back to the dichotomous city. The book, by Nanditha Krishna, Tishani Doshi, and Pramod Kapoor, produces fine archival images of events from the past drawn from museums and galleries and personal collections.

The real and the fictional

While clearly all cities figure in some way in a lot of fiction, Madras is a key persona in Manu Joseph's *The Illicit Happiness of Other People* which is set in 1990s Madras, and Padma Venkataraman's *The Bridge Home* that deals with a key aspect of the city - children of the street. Well in the realm of non-fiction, Krupa Ge's *Rivers Remember: The Shocking Truth of a Manmade Flood*, sifts through the drama of the 2015 floods in Chennai to shake out truths that rendered the city extraordinarily vulnerable, even given the scale of natural disaster. This book stands out because it knows the city, its lanes and encroached-upon lakebeds, the people that contributed to the disaster, and the ones that plucked it up and put it on its feet again.

If we began with Muthiah, then old jungle law dictates we must close with V. Sriram, who picked up the baton from his mentor, and his sarcasm. *Chennai: A Biography*, a recent publication about 'all that is Madras', is a tome that does just that. And as the wheels turn, again, the dichotomy pops up again, as it indeed will, repeatedly, but for the cognisant people, Chennai is where they live, and Madras, the city they celebrate.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The 15th edition of the Asia Cup is scheduled to get underway in the UAE on August 27. A quiz on the history of the long-running continental cricket event.

1 UAE will play host for the fourth time with the 2022 edition. Which country holds the record of having hosted the Asia Cup the most number of times (five)?

2 India is the most successful side in the tournament's history with seven titles (1984, 1988, 1990-91, 1995, 2010, 2016, 2018). Who was the skipper in the inaugural edition in 1984, and where was it held?

3 The 2022 edition will be played in the T20 format. When was the only other time it was played in this format?

4 Which four nations are competing in the qualifier to make the tournament proper?

5 The present Indian skipper Rohit Sharma with 27 matches is joint-second with Pakistan's Shahid Afridi for most appearances. Which Sri Lankan holds the record with 28?

6 Why is March 16, 2012, the day of the India-Bangladesh game, in the history books?

7 Which Indian's entire international career was the three ODIs that he played in the 1990 Asia Cup?

◄ The Indian holding the inaugural Asia Cup and flashing the 'V' sign was the player-of-the-series in the first Asia Cup in 1984. Name this wicketkeeper-batsman.

• THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The musicologist who wrote the first modern treatise on Hindustani classical music. **Ans: Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande**
2. This period of classical music saw the creation of common-practice tonality. **Ans: Baroque Period**
3. This genre of music popular in Maharashtra is a combination of traditional song and dance performed to the beats of Dholki. **Ans: Lavani**
4. The master from Odisha known for his epic Gita Govind. **Ans: Jayadeva**
5. This form of Indian classical music developed in the temples of Kerala in the wake of the increasing popularity of the Ashtapadis. **Ans: Sopma Sangeetham**
5. The name for the fusion genre of Indian folk music with local Caribbean calypso and soca music. **Ans: Chutney Music**
Visual: This is the only crater to be named after a Carnatic Musician. **Ans: This crater is found on Mercury and named after Thygaraja**

Early Birds: Sanoop. P| Anil Warrier| Varghese Joseph| Anjali Janardhanan| Jagadish. S

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"I am sorry I am late sir. I got up lately today."

"Normally you get up very early, don't you?"

"Yes sir."

"You get up late and not lately.

I went there rather late.

He came very late.

Don't ever say 'I got up very lately'. 'Lately' is not the opposite of 'early'. The opposite of early is late! Sometimes he comes early, sometimes late. Lately means 'recently', 'not long ago'.

Lately, I haven't been keeping good health.

I haven't seen her lately.

Have you been to his place lately?

I saw him as lately as last Tuesday"

"What's the difference between 'later' and 'latter', sir?"

" 'Later' means 'afterwards'.

Please come and see me later.

At the beginning, they quarreled a great deal. Later they became friends.

We'll discuss the matter later.

Sooner or later, we must come to an agreement.

'Latter' means 'the second-mentioned'. In this sense, it is used only in writing.

John and Ram are very good students. Here the latter refers to Ram. *The latter is a sportsman too.* 'Latter' is the opposite of 'former'. It has some other meanings too but we need not go into them now. We'll discuss them later.

"What is the meaning of 'pull up one's socks' sir?

Unless you pull up your socks, you won't get through the examination.

It is pointless to go about discussing this endlessly. Let's pull up our socks and do something about it.

"To pull up one's socks' means to 'be more purposeful and alert'. This is used colloquially.

"What is the difference between 'a sticker' and 'a stickler' sir?"

The literal meaning of sticker is that which sticks. An adhesive label is a sticker. Figuratively, it means a person who sticks to something at all cost. A sticker is a persevering person. A stickler is 'a person who insists uncompromisingly on the observance of something specified'. A stickler for punctuality will insist on punctuality and and will be very fussy about it. He will be upset if you are not punctual.

He is a stickler for cleanliness.

She is a stickler for good manners.

He is a stickler for clarity and precision.

I am sure each one is a stickler for something or the other. This will do for today. Goodbye."

"Thank you sir, Goodbye."

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, AUG. 25	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:35
RISE 04:18	SET 17:27
FRIDAY, AUG. 26	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:34
RISE 05:10	SET 18:09
SATURDAY, AUG. 27	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:34
RISE 06:00	SET 18:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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CM unveils vision document for healthcare sector in State

It aims to outline a long-term plan for the holistic development of the sector

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday unveiled a vision document that, according to the State government, aims to outline a long-term plan for the holistic development of the healthcare sector in the State.

Mr. Bommai unveiled what is being touted as India's first-of-its-kind comprehensive healthcare vision document at a 'Doctors' day' event at the Vidhana Soudha. "We should have a vision about our health system at least 25 years from now. Hence, our State, which is one of the progressive States in the country, has come out with the vision document for the healthcare sector," he said at the event.

"The documents not only touches upon the problems faced by the healthcare sector, but has solutions too. This will be the encyclopedia of health management in the country, not only for our State," he added.

> **The documents not only touches upon the problems faced by the healthcare sector, but has solutions too. This will be the encyclopedia of health management in the country, not only for our State.**
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

Speaking at the event, Health Minister K. Sudhakar said the document has been prepared under the leadership of Dr. Gururaj after a year of thorough research, discussions, and debates. "A total of 250 experts have provided their inputs to prepare the document. Good practices and policies from other countries have been recorded in this document. The report includes a development roadmap all the way from primary healthcare in rural areas up to tertiary care and even telemedicine," Dr. Sudhakar said.

According to him, the document will also be given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, the State government plans to open 100 new community health centres in North Karnataka. "The foundation for the community health centre project will be laid within a month. We will also open 'Namma Clinics' in urban areas that have a concentration of poor and other vulnerable sections of society," he said, while adding that 243 such 'Namma Clinics' would be opened within two months in Bengaluru.

Major thematic domains

- Public health services
- Health infrastructure
- Health human resources
- Surveillance, monitoring and evaluation
- Technology-enabled healthcare
- Elderly health
- Infectious and communicable diseases prevention and control
- Emergency, critical care, and specialised services
- Disability and rehabilitation
- AYUSH services
- Environmental health
- Urban health
- Tribal health
- Disaster and pandemic preparedness and management

FROM PAGE ONE

Complain to Lokayukta: CM

The Congress had been demanding a probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court into allegations by the association.

Insuniating that the association's allegations were "politically motivated", Mr. Bommai said: "Everyone has the freedom to write to the Prime Minister. But there is a process in place to probe corruption charges."

Mr. Kempanna, without directly naming him, also accused Horticulture Minister Munirathna of collecting bribes.

"The Minister in charge of Kolar district threatened the executive engineer with suspension if money is not collected," Mr. Kempanna pointed out.

"In Rajarajeshwarinagar (whose MLA is Mr. Munirathna), ₹10,000 crore has been spent. What improvement has been done?" he asked, adding that elected representatives "should be ashamed of looting public money."

50% commission, say civil contractors

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Now, the civil contractors of BBMP have alleged that they are being forced to pay 50% commission for projects and have complained to civic chief Tushar Giri Nath.

K.T. Manjunath, president of the BBMP Working Contractors' Association, stated in the letter that contractors were being asked to pay 50 % commission in every office of the BBMP and that funds would not be released if they did not give it to officials.

"For the past 22 months, contractors have not been paid for the work we have done. On top of this, new orders have been issued providing for assistant engineers, assistant executive engineers, and the chief engineer as well as elected representatives to review documents related to projects. Despite works being completed and files being cleared for the release of payment after field inspections by officers, the files are sent to other offices where commissions are being demanded," the association alleged in the letter.

According to the association, field visits are taking many months owing to staff shortage in the technical vigilance cell (TVC) under the commissioner and the quality monitoring wing.

"Because of this, contractors have to wait for months to get funds released by the bill registry. If these issues are not addressed, we have to stop all the work and the association members will hold protests," the letter stated.

After a year, missing woman case turns out to be murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After gathering dust for over a year, a missing person case registered in July 2021 has turned out to be a murder.

The Chamarajpet police, based on instructions given during a recent crime review meeting, cracked the murder case of a 43-year-old woman and arrested a 35-year-old rowdy-sheeter and his female associate on Wednesday.

The victim Chandrakala was living alone in a rented house and worked at a gunny bag stitching unit.

The accused Lakshmi, 38, was also working in the same unit and noticed Chandrakala was alone and had some gold jewels. She hatched the plan with Narayana G. to kill her and rob the valuables.

As per the plan, Lakshmi offered to get Chandrakala herbal medicines from a quack she knew for her prolonged illness and took her to Halaguru along with Narayana on the outskirts of Mandya district on July 27. After reaching Mullayana Katte in Halaguru police station limits, the duo strangled Chandrakala with her veil and crushed her head with a boulder to conceal her identity. The accused took her bag and checked to find no valuables.

Lakshmi had asked Chandrakala to wear her jewellery when coming to consult the quack and also lied to her that they could arrange for a prospective groom while returning. Though Chandrakala agreed, she suspected something fishy and left behind her gold chain, pair of bangles and gold ring at home.

After killing Chandrakala, the accused were disappointed that they did not get the gold valuables and returned home with Chandrakala's mobile phone. Lakshmi removed the SIM to replace with her own and started using it.

A few days later, Halaguru police recovered the highly decomposed unidentified body and registered a case of murder, but were unable to probe the case due to lack of clues.

Meanwhile, a distant relative of Chandrakala noticed her missing under mysterious circumstances and filed a complaint with the police. The police registered a missing complaint, but there was no progress in the case since then.

Recently, DCP Commissioner of Police (west division) Lakshman Nimbargi, during a crime review meeting, asked the police to follow up on pending cases, including the missing case of Chandrakala.

CDR recovered

Based on his instruction, the police recovered call record details (CDR) and found that the last call was made by Lakshmi.

The police also found that Chandrakala's phone was being used with a different SIM.

On suspicion, the police tracked down the mobile phone user and she turned out to be Lakshmi.

Police conduct checks on houses of rowdies

Dagger recovered from one of them

A surprise check being conducted by the police in Bengaluru.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The West division police on Tuesday night conducted a special drive to carry out surprise checks on the houses of rowdies and habitual offenders.

DCP, West Division, Lakshman Nimbargi, said that several teams have been formed to conduct checks on the 166 houses situated across West division and the police questioned 100 rowdies.

As many as 32 rowdies who were out of view and not appearing regularly at the station to mark their attendance, have been taken into custody and cases have been booked against them.

The police, during the search at the house of a rowdy, recovered a dagger and arrested him under the Arms Act.

The accused, identified as Jibran, having a total 15 cases pending against him, was in jail under the Goonda Act and released a few days back.

He will be booked under the Arms Act and sent back to prison, a police officer said.

Forest Department comes out with SOP to capture monkeys

HC directs govt. to implement them in letter and spirit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Forest Department has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to capture, translocate, release, and rehabilitate monkeys as well as for protection of the animal in conflict with human in both urban and rural areas across the State.

The SOP was formulated by a technical expert committee (TEC) formed by the department following a direction issued by the High Court of Karnataka in a PIL petition, filed by advocate B.S. Radhanandan of Bengaluru, to the government to tackle monkey menace and protect Bonnet Macaque species of monkeys from the hands of unauthorised capturers.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty, which took note of the SOP, has disposed of the petition by directing the State government to enforce the SOP in letter and spirit.

The SOP was prepared by the TEC comprising Mewa Singh, a primatologist and ethologist of Institute of Excellence, University of Mysore, H.N. Kumara, Principal Scientist-Conservation and Biology, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

SOP highlights

- Monkeys to be captured by a team of trained staff of Forest Department headed by a Deputy RFO and comprising representatives of local bodies, and a veterinarian.
- Existing traditional capturing practices/skills to be used till formulation of alternative scientific techniques.
- Tools like walk-in cages, throw nets, blow pipes (when darting is absolutely necessary, and transportation cages can be used.
- Monkeys captured in urban areas should not be released in habitats having risk of spreading acquired pathogens to other wildlife species.
- Monitoring behaviour of translocated monkeys in collaboration with institutions/researchers/volunteers.

Complaints on monkey menace in writing can be made directly to the jurisdictional forest office or through the offices of all the local bodies, or through the FD helpline number 1526 and helpline numbers of the local bodies.

Jurisdictional Range Forest Officer, on verification of complaint including through filed inspection, will submit report to the higher officers to seek necessary order for capture, release, etc.

While permission can be granted immediately in emergency situation like monkey entering an apartment or household or monkey requiring urgent veterinary care due to injury, the SOP says in other cases RFO requires to examine radius of conflict zone, nature of conflict, species of monkey, their group size, previous instances of conflict or capture, etc. A committee comprising experts, volunteers, NGOs also can be set up to study the nature of local conflict.

The Chief Conservator or Conservator of Forests can grant or refuse permission for capture, translocate, or rehabilitation based on the report, the SOP states.

In case of urban areas, the SOP states that local bodies having severe conflict issues have to develop monkey rescue and rehabilitation centres in collaboration with FD and provide land, infrastructure and financial assistance.

In rescue centres facility to be developed for sterilization of monkeys and post-surgery care to control population in the long run.

'Visit madrasas and submit report within 15 days'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

B.C. Nagesh, Minister, Department of School Education and Literacy, has instructed the officials to visit all madrasas and submit a report within 15 days about constituting the Madras Education Board.

The Minister held a meeting with department officials to discuss about the constitution of Madrasa Education Board on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Minister said, "Earlier, in some madrasas, officials were not allowed to enter. We do not want such instances to repeat and I have directed officials to submit a report on functioning of madrasas within 15 days."

"During the visit, the officials will verify whether the children going to madrasas are getting education as per the Right to Education Act. Once we receive the report, we will call for a meeting with those running madrasas and academicians to discuss about the issues," he said.

"Children who go to madrasas are not getting formal education. The parents demanded that teaching should be made available mainly in mathematics and science. Thus, the first meeting was held to review the system of education imparted in madrasas. After receiving religious education in madrasas, there is a rule that students must attend nearby schools for formal education in science and mathematics. However, there is no clear and accurate information about the extent to which the students who are getting education in Madrasas are getting formal education," the Minister added.

"We are not adopting either Uttar Pradesh or any other model. It is based on the demand from parents belonging to Muslim community," Mr. .Nagesh clarified.

Body of Bengaluru man found in Kukke

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Following four days of search, the body of Shivu, 24, from Bengaluru, was found on Wednesday, a kilometre away from the place he entered the Kumaradhara to bathe in Kukke Subrahmanya.

Mr. Shivu came along with 21 of his friends to Kukke Subrahmanya on Sunday morning. After a darshan of the deity, they came to the bathing ghat around 3 p.m. Despite being warned against crossing the rope placed at the ghat, Mr. Shivu jumped into the river.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 25, Thursday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** What is 'tomato flu' and why has the Centre issued an advisory for it? bit.ly/tomatoflu
- **Explained |** The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 bit.ly/compbill
- **Bibliography |** Living in Chennai, celebrating Madras bit.ly/madrasbiblio

Online exclusives

- **Podcast |** When children witness domestic violence bit.ly/podviolence
- **Watch |** These Hong Kongers are bonding over kabaddi bit.ly/hkkabbadi
- **The Hindu on Books |** The 40 best young Indian writers and more bit.ly/bookswriters
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Century-old theatre group to cut short Yakshagana shows

Shows spanning entire night will be truncated after loudspeaker ban; it will now be performed from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Going forward, the Kateel Mela theatre group has decided to hold shows in the evening. • FILE PHOTO

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA
MANGALURU

The all-night Yakshagana performances by more than a century-old theatre troupe Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Yakshagana Mandali will soon be history with the group deciding to switch to shorter duration shows from November.

The managing committee of the temple took the decision on Tuesday in view of the government circular issued in May, 2022, which has banned the use of loudspeakers between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except on closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, or during a public emergency.

With this decision, the Mandali, founded in the mid-19th century and popularly called Kateel Mela, will become the second Yakshagana theatre troupe with the record of over a century to break away from its tradition. From now, the group has decided to perform from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Over a century-old Dharmasthala Yakshagana Mela (Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Krupaposhita Yakshagana Mandali) has been performing in the truncated form from 2015-16 touring season. The Kateel Mela, having six performing troupes, is attached to the Muzrai Department which managed Durgaparameshwari Temple at Kateel.

Harinarayanadasa Asranna, a hereditary archak at the temple who is closely associated with the management of the mela, told *The Hindu* that since the troupes performed in grounds or other open places, it will not be possible to adhere to the guidelines of the circular. Loudspeakers have become an integral part of Yakshagana performance without which the present generation audience cannot be reached.

The police have issued notices to all temples to adhere to the guidelines of the government. Hence, the managing committee took the decision. The modalities of presenting the performances under the changed circumstances will be worked out before the troupes commence their tour for 2022-23 for six months from November 24, he said. Yakshagana fans took to social media stating that the quality of shows will be comprised.

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BJP and Congress are engaged in a war of words over Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, with the issue getting entangled with Ganesha festival as well

Prohibitory orders in Kodagu; additional forces deployed

Congress, BJP have already cancelled rallies that were to be held in Madikeri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prohibitory orders have been clamped on Kodagu for four days from Wednesday and security has been beefed up in sensitive areas across the district, even after the Congress and the BJP cancelled their respective political rallies scheduled to be held in Madikeri on August 26.

Senior police officials, including Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar and Inspector General of Police (Southern Range) Praveen Madhukar Pawar, are camping in the district to oversee the security arrangements while 15 KSRP platoons and 25 DAR platoons have been deployed to ensure law and order across Kodagu.

Checkposts had been erected at entry points leading to Kodagu from Kerala, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, and Hassan. "We have kept a vigil at checkposts on the roads leading to Kodagu, but have ensured that it does not hamper flow of tourists," said Mr. Pawar. A flag march will be held on Thursday morning in Madikeri.

Additional police forces have been deployed to ensure law and order across Kodagu district. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In view of a threat to law and order in the communally-sensitive Kodagu from the political rallies by rival political parties, the district administration had imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC and Section 35 of Karnataka Police Act from 6 a.m. of August 24 to 6 p.m. on August 27. Sale of liquor too had been banned from midnight of August 24 to midnight of August 26.

While former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced that the Congress was putting off its proposed 'Madikeri Chalo' programme to lay siege to the office of Superintendent of Kodagu district police on August 26 in view of the prohibitory orders, BJP leader in Kodagu Robin Devaiah too said the party had postponed its 'Jana Jagruthi' convention scheduled for the same day.

The Congress had given a call for the programme citing a security lapse after black flags were shown and eggs were hurled at Mr. Siddaramaiah's car during his recent visit to Kodagu to assess the rain damage. They were protesting against his remarks on Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar. The BJP leaders had announced a the convention to coincide with the Congress' programme.

Controversy over Savarkar images in Ganesha mandals

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

The issue of placing Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar's images in Ganesha mandals has taken an interesting turn in Belagavi, the city where he was imprisoned for over three months.

As part of a State-wide campaign to create awareness about Savarkar, the BJP has asked all mandals to display his images. BJP leaders in Belagavi have appealed to mandals to keep posters, banners, and images of Savarkar till the end of the festival period. Anil Benake, MLA, Belagavi North, said he would distribute one picture of the freedom fighter to each of the 200 Ganesha mandals in the city.

Pramod Mutalik, Sri Ram Sene founder, has gone so far as to warn of "violent reactions" if anyone tried to remove the posters or images from the mandals.

Congress leader and former Minister Satish Jarkiholi has tried to counter it by offering other options for mandals, while not directly attacking those keen to display Savarkar's images. He told journalists in Belagavi that those who follow Savarkar's ideology could place his images, while the followers of Sangolli Rayanna will place the Kittur war hero's statues or images in pandals.

"Let the BJP keep Savarkar's pictures, while we will place the images of Buddha, Basavanna, and Dr. Ambedkar in our pandals as we believe in them," he said. Mr. Jarkiholi is founder of Mana-

BJP leaders in Belagavi have told mandals to keep posters, banners, and images of Savarkar in pandals till the end of Ganesha festival. •P.K. BADIGER

va Bandhutva Vedike that has been promoting the teachings of the three leaders.

The Aam Aadmi Party has criticised the BJP's move, saying it had reduced the grand Ganesh festival into "a political spectacle." AAP regional convener Rajiv Topannanavar has alleged that BJP was trying to make it into an occasion to create vote banks by dividing society. "The BJP has run out of issues and they want to seek votes by politicising the festival. We condemn this. We request all Ganesh mandals to keep posters of local heroes, freedom fighters, and others who have contributed to society in various ways," he said.

However, all those who revere Savarkar are also not happy with the turn of events. "Whatever Savarkar did was for society and not for vote bank politics. If he was alive today, he would not have approved the BJP's plans of placing his images in the Ganesh pandals," said Shivaji Kudremani, Marathi writer and follower of Savarkar ideology.

Association with Belagavi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Between April and July of 1950, V.D. Savarkar was kept under preventive detention in the Hindalga central prison.

Belagavi, then known as Belgaum, was part of southern Maharashtra. The orders of his arrest were issued in Mumbai, but his arrest was made after he arrived in Belagavi railway station. This was to prevent his protest against Liaqat Ali Khan, Pakistan Prime Minister who was scheduled to visit Delhi. He was released following a habeas corpus petition filed by his family members. He had to file an affidavit of abstaining from political activities before Bombay High Court.

KSE gets threat letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa has received a threat letter over his comments on Tipu Sultan.

The letter reached Mr. Eshwarappa's residence at Malleshwara Nagar in Shivamogga on Wednesday. The handwritten letter, addressed to the former Minister, objects to his "Muslim goonda" comment on Tipu Sultan. Further, the letter said: "You need bricks from a Muslim for the college building in Byadagi taluk, but you don't need Muslims. You should be ashamed..."

Mr. Eshwarappa's personal assistant has filed a police complaint in Shivamogga.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Eshwarappa said he was not bothered about such threats. The former Minister said he would call only those Muslims engaged in murder, robbery, and assault cases as goondas, and not all. "I am confident the police will probe the letter and identify its source," he said.

21 trusts get new members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government nominated chairpersons and members to 21 Trusts and prathistanas, including K. Shivaram Karanth Prathistana, of the Kannada and Culture Department. New chairpersons and members were nominated following end of the term of earlier members.

BJP unaware of life of their leader: Priyank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge, former Minister and KPCC spokesperson, on Wednesday said V.D. Savarkar proposed two-nation theory at the Hindu Mahasabha meeting in 1937 and the Muslim League adopted a similar resolution three years later.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Kharge said Savarkar did not support the Quit India Movement in 1942 and supported the division of the country on religious lines during the colonial rule.

The BJP has been indulging in politics over Savarkar with the launch of the "Veer Savarkar Rath Yatra" from Mysuru and attacking Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah for his critical comments against the Hindutva ideologue. "The BJP leaders speak volumes about 'Akhanda Bharat' but their leader Savarkar stood for division of the country," Mr. Kharge alleged.

He said Savarkar did not consider cow as a "sacred animal", but as a "useful animal", while adding that the BJP leaders were unaware of the life and achievements of their own leader.

Congress leader Priyank Kharge addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

HC directs trial court to wait for sanction to proceed against 10 accused police officers

They allegedly fabricated and planted evidence

FROM THE COURT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the trial court to wait till the competent authority grants sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to proceed against 10 accused police officers on the charges of fabricating and planting evidences on the premises of a person accused in a single-digit lottery ticket "scam" in 2015.

While quashing the cognisance of offences taken against the accused officers by the trial court in January 2020, the High Court said the proceedings shall continue from the stage of issuance of process only after the CBI submits sanction from their prosecution from the competent authority. The High Court also made it clear that the trial court cannot proceed against the accused based on the CBI's chargesheet till the sanction is placed on the record.

The accused

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order on the petitions filed by the 10 accused persons. They are: B.A. Padmanayan, retired Inspector General of Police; C.R. Ranganatha, retired police inspector; Kanakalakshmi B.M, G.T. Swamy, M.J. Lokesh, B.N. Shrikantha, B.M. Thippeswamy, all police inspectors; Ravi Kumar D and R. Raviprakash, police sub-inspectors; and B.S. Venugopal, head constable.

Though the CBI's itself sought sanction for their prosecution from the State authorities and that request is still pending, the CBI had contended before the High Court that sanction is not needed as the alleged acts of the accused does not form part of the official discharge of their duty.

'Search and seizure'

However, the High Court, relying on the apex court's verdict pointed out that sanction is necessary as the offences alleged against them were committed during the 'search and seizure,' which was done as part of discharge of their official duty.

All of them working in the Excise Enforcement and Lottery Prohibition Wing (EE&LPW), Bengaluru, when they conducted investigation against one Parirajan N. of KGF on the allegation that he was the kingpin of illegal single-digit lottery business, and had filed chargesheet in June 2015. It was also alleged that Parirajan had nexus with some senior police officers.

CBI probe

However, the government later handed over the investigation to the CBI, which took over probe in August 2015. On investigation, the CBI gave clean chit to Parirajan but found that 10 police officers and personnel had created bogus seizures and conducted mahazars by planting lottery result sheets in the house of Parirajan.

The CBI had found that lottery results sheets were 'created and printed' in the office of the EE&LPW using the official computer and the printer by one of the accused police personnel on the night preceding the search conducted in the house of Parirajan.

Winners of Yuva Puraskar, Bal Sahitya Puraskar announced

Dadapeer Jyman, Tammanna Beegara chosen

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Sahitya Akademi on Wednesday announced the winners of Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022.

According to a release issued by Sahitya Akademi, Dadapeer Jyman for his novel *Neelakurinji* (short stories) in Kannada has been selected in the Yuva Puraskar category.

In the Bal Sahitya Puraskar category, *Bavali Guhe* (novel) written in Kannada by Tammanna Beegara, has been selected. The award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of ₹50,000 will be presented to the awardees at a function in New Delhi.

In the Yuva Puraskar 2022, award will be given for writers in 23 languages, while writers from 22 languages have been selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022.

KSRTC, TSRTC hold meet on expanding services

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Managing Director of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) Anbukumar held a meeting with the MD of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), Hyderabad, V.C. Sajjanar on Wednesday.

A release from the corporation states that during the meeting, the officials deliberated on expanding inter-State services between Karnataka and Telangana by reaching an agreement. Other issues related to operations were discussed. Senior officials of the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation were present during the meeting.

BJP State executive meet on Sept. 11 to finalise programmes to galvanise cadre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Opposition Congress building momentum for its poll preparations, the BJP is set to hold a State executive in Bengaluru on September 11 to finalise programmes to galvanise its cadre ahead of the next Assembly elections.

The executive, which will be held at Palace Grounds, will be attended by former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who has been elevated as member of the party's highest decision-making body of Parliamentary Board, party national general secretary and State in charge Arun Singh, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and State president Nalin Kumar Kateel. All Ministers, party MPs, legislators, and office-bearers will also take part.

The BJP is closely watching the apparent resurgence of the Congress, which is in an upbeat mood after an encouraging response to the convention held recently to mark the 75th birthday of its leader Siddaramaiah in Davangere and the Independence Day march taken out in Bengaluru.

In this backdrop, the Central leaders elevated Mr. Yediyurappa who has the onerous task of galvanising the cadre. The executive is being watched with curiosity as it is the first important meeting of the party leaders after the elevation of Mr. Yediyurappa.

According to sources in the party, the executive is expected to finalise the schedule of a State tour being planned by the party's two teams of leaders. While one team would be headed by Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Bommai, the other is likely to be led by Mr. Kateel and others. This is aimed at instilling confidence among the party cadre which has expressed anguish over its leaders in the wake of killings of party workers in recent times in Dakshina Kannada district.

It is learnt that the BJP is also planning to hold State-level conventions of women, youth, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes in a bid to reach out to these sections ahead of the elections. The executive is expected to finalise the schedule of such proposed conventions.

In addition, the executive is expected to take stock of various political developments, including the controversial episode of a person throwing egg on Mr. Siddaramaiah's car during his visit to Kodagu and the political impact of counter campaign by the Congress.

BJP eyes 160 wards in BBMP

The ruling BJP has set a target of winning more than 160 wards in BBMP, which will have a total of 243 wards. The target was given to the party cadre at a meeting of BJP's Bengaluru city office-bearers held in Bengaluru on Tuesday to review the preparations for BBMP polls, according to Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1.	CE / MM	M20, M21, M22, M23, M24, M25	6

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening ,viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR /3896/ Tender / 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my clients **1) Mr. Mohammed Mehaboob**, S/o Mohammed Maqbool and **2) Mr. Nawaz Ulla Shariff**, S/o Wahid Shariff, both are residence of Govindapura, A.C Post, Bangalore-560045, have entered into Agreement of Sale with **Mr. Imran Ahmed**, S/o Late Abdul Baseer, residing at No. 28, 2nd Cross, M.I.T. Layout, K.G. Halli, Bangalore-560045 (the owner) in respect of the schedule property mentioned below.

Any person/s firm, trust, company or anybody having any form of right, title or interest over the Schedule Property may lodge their objections with valid proof / documents ***within 15 days*** from the date of this notice to the undersigned. Any objections received after 15 days will not be entertained and my Clients will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential Property bearing **Site No. K.N.P-156**, formed in Survey No. 32/8, **"ARKAVATHI LAYOUT"**, 17th Block, situated at **K. NARAYANAPURA VILLAGE**, Bangalore, measuring East to West 12.00 meters and North to South 9.00 meters, in all measuring 108.00 square meters and bounded on:

East by : Site No. K.N.P. 168, **West by** : Road,
North by : Site No. K.N.P. 157, **South by** : Site No. K.N.P. 155

Sd/-
VENKATESHA. M.T. *Advocate,*
No.636, 1st Main, Patel Munivenkatappa Layout, Near De Grand Hotel, Nagawara, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045.
Ph: No. 9986044393 / 7022075279
Bangalore Date: 24.08.2022

Vijaya Bank ex-chairman Sadananda Shetty passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

K. Sadananda Shetty, former Vijaya Bank chairman and founder and serving Chairman of Soham Group of Companies, passed away on Wednesday. Mr. Shetty breathed his last at Nice city in France. He was 85.

He was the chairman of Vijaya Bank, which has now merged with Bank of Baroda, from 1983 to 1990. He also served as the vice-chairman of Indian Banks Association. He was on the boards of Air India and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India.

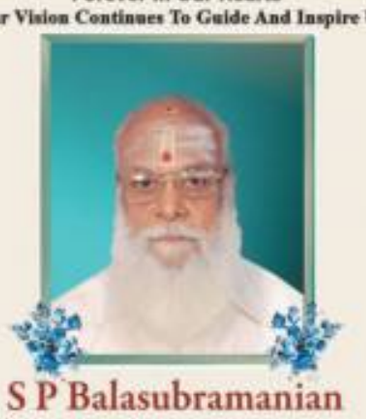
Mr. Shetty was current president of Renewable Energy Developers Association of Karnataka.

The mortal remains are expected to arrive in Bengaluru in a day or two and the final rites would be held in the city, according to his family.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Sri Ramajayam
Om Shri Venkateshwaraya Parabrahmane Namaha
"Forever In Our Hearts"
"Your Vision Continues To Guide And Inspire Us"



S P Balasubramanian
25th Aug 1942 - 22nd Sep 2020

80th BIRTHDAY REMEMBERANCE
Deeply Missed And Fondly Remembered By
Family,Friends
Management & Staff of
Shri Venkateshwara Matriculation Higher secondary school,Thanjavur
Shri Ponnuswamy Iyer Educational & Memorial Charitable Trust
K & K Consultants,Chennai
K & K Infra (Engineering Procurement Construction) Chennai

IN MEMORIAM

In fond memory of

Jagadish Naraindas Hinduja
31-3-1945 ‖ 12-8-2022
(Gokaldas Images Pvt. Ltd)
Inserted by:
Aries Agro-Vet Associates Pvt Ltd,
Mumbai - Bengaluru

DEATH

Major G.Manoharan
Passed away on 24.06.2022
Deeply mourned by
Batch of 1981
Sainik School, Amaravati Nagar

IN BRIEF

Release funds to pay KSRTC employees: court

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday directed the State government to release the required amount to the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to pay salaries for the months of July and August along with the eligible bonus to all the employees below the managerial cadre on or before September 1. The court said that the festival of Onam was near but the employees of KSRTC had found no ray of hope so far.

HC stays order cancelling bail in lynching case

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday stayed till August 29 an order of the special court for offences under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Mannarkad, cancelling the bail granted to the accused in the Attappady Madhu lynching case. Justice Kauser Edappagath passed the order on a petition moved by Marakkar and Radhakrishnan, the second and fifth accused, against the bail cancellation order.

Bail to Civic Chandran in sexual assault case stayed

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday stayed the Kozhikode Sessions Court order granting anticipatory bail to social activist and writer Civic Chandran in a sexual assault case. Justice Kauser Edappagath ordered that considering the age of the writer, he shall not be arrested till the disposal of the appeal by the State government against the Sessions Court order. The court said *primo facie* it seemed there was an improper exercise of jurisdiction by the Sessions Court.

Centre cutting State loans: Kerala Minister

Curbs are not imposed against Centre's agencies, says Balagopal

JIGEESH A.M.
NEW DELHI

As the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned his predecessor T.M. Thomas Isaac on an investigation against the Masala Bonds issued by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), State Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said the Centre was using the investigating and regulating agencies to subjugate the States so that they fell in line with the interests of the Centre.

Citing the objections of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) against external borrowing by the State's special purpose vehicles (SPVs) such as KIIFB and the Kerala Social Security Pension Limited (KSSPL), Mr. Balagopal said such restrictions were not imposed against agencies of the Centre, which were also bound to go by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

The Minister said that through a recent order issued in March, the Centre was curtailing the statutory borrowing powers of States. He said the order also stipulated that borrowing by SPVs would also be included in the State's net borrowing limit. "It was with this objective in mind that the Centre adopted an idealistic but illegal interpretation of Article 293 (3) of the Constitution. But while doing this, they have deliberately avoided restraining similar agencies and public sector organisations of the Centre in implementing their own development projects and finance repayments," Mr. Balagopal said.

K.N. Balagopal

He said the States were forced to limit their spending on welfare schemes such as housing for poor and food security for the people. "While putting the State governments under financial pressure, the Centre has written off corporate debt to the tune of nearly ₹7.94 lakh crore during 2015-2019. Apart from this, huge tax breaks are given to corporates every year. The Centre has turned a blind eye to the State's requests to increase financial assistance even in the wake of severe economic crisis in the country due to the pandemic," Mr. Balagopal told *The Hindu*.

The CAG had flagged the external borrowings of the two SPVs in at least three audit reports. In one such report on State finances in 2019, the CAG said that since the KIIFB had no source of income, its borrowings, for which the State government stood as a guarantor, may ultimately turn out to be a direct liability of the State government. "Any servicing of these debts by the State government would entail surpassing the Fourteenth Finance Commission and Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act fiscal deficit target of 3% (in the current year it already stands at 3.45%) and the debt-GSDP ratio of 30% (in the current year it stands at 30.91%). Further, such off-budget borrowings are not in accordance with Article 293 (1) of the Constitution of India," the CAG had noted. This criticism was repeated in two more CAG reports on the State finances.

ISRO veterans challenge Nambi Narayanan's claims

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Several Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) veterans, have challenged claims reportedly made by S. Nambi Narayanan, the former scientist who was implicated in the ISRO espionage case, regarding his contributions to the Indian space programme, especially those related to cryogenic propulsion.

Many of the claims in the Madhavan-starrer biopic *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* and those made by Mr. Narayanan in various forums are baseless and tend to mislead the public, the former scientists, which included D. Sasikumaran who had also been implicated in the spy case, and A.E. Muthunayagam, former director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), told a meet-the-press programme organised by the Thiruvananthapuram Press Club on Wednesday.

Former ISRO scientists during a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. • S. MAHINSHA

While they bore no personal enmity or ill-will towards Mr. Narayanan, they wished to present the facts before the public, they said. ISRO's successes are the products of teamwork and any one individual cannot claim sole credit. Major developments in cryogenic propulsion took place in ISRO after Mr. Narayanan left the LPSC in 1994, according to Dr. Muthunayagam and E.V.S. Namboothiri, who chaired the project management board on cryogenic upper stage project.

He was neither a member of the study project, nor did he make any contributions to it. He was also not in the Cryogenic Propulsion Development Group formed by Dr. Muthunayagam in 1987 with Mr. Namboothiri as Group Director, said Dr. Muthunayagam.

Tensions continue in Hyderabad's Old City

Row over BJP MLA's Prophet remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The protests against suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator T. Raja Singh's objectionable remark against Prophet Muhammad continued, albeit intermittently, since they broke out late on Monday night, prompting the police to direct the closure of shops and business establishments in the Old City by 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Even as protesters appeared in Shalibanda in phases throughout Wednesday, the police preventively detained around 100 men.

The police at first urged the irate, sloganeering youths to go home, but later resorted to lathicharge.

People poured into Charminar late on Tuesday night and began raising slogans and demanding death penalty for the legislator.

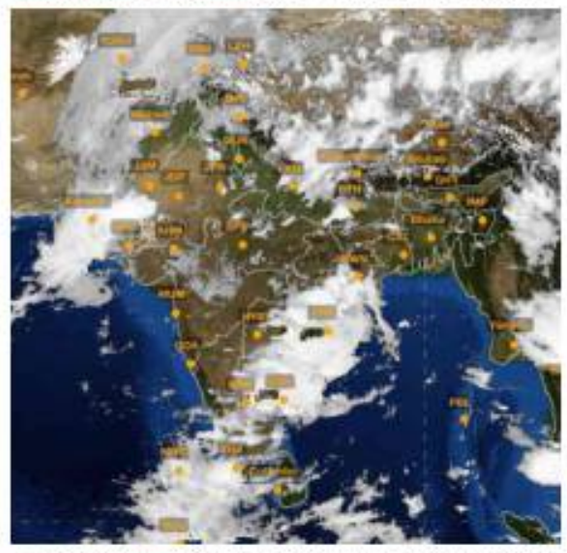
As the night progressed, protesters poured into the Shalibanda crossroads and were seen near Charminar, Gulzar Houz and Vattapally.

Around 1 a.m., the streets were bursting at the seams with youth. They continued to raise slogans and refused to budge. A small section of the protesters turned into a mob, resorted to violence and damaged two police vehicles. A taxi was also damaged.

In an attempt to pacify the demonstrators, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) legislator Ahmed Balala reached the scene around 2.45 a.m. He spoke to police officers and demanded that Preventive Detention Act be invoked against the BJP MLA.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.1	34.0	25.4	Kozhikode	35	27.4	23.0
Ahmedabad	17	31.0	23.6	Kurnool	0.4	33.5	25.2
Aizawl	2	27.3	21.3	Lucknow	3	31.2	25.6
Allahabad	–	32.8	25.9	Madurai	–	33.2	26.1
Bengaluru	–	27.9	20.9	Mangaluru	105.6	25.5	22.9
Bhopal	–	27.0	22.0	Mumbai	10	30.4	25.4
Bhubaneswar	0.9	29.6	25.6	Mysuru	3	32.0	21.8
Chandigarh	–	32.5	28.4	New Delhi	–	34.3	25.7
Chennai	49	34.5	24.3	Patna	46	34.4	25.6
Coimbatore	–	28.2	22.6	Port Blair	1	31.2	25.1
Dehradun	8	32.8	23.5	Puducherry	20.2	32.9	22.5
Gangtok	–	24.4	17.5	Pune	1.6	27.8	22.3
Goa	9	30.0	23.8	Raipur	–	32.8	26.2
Guwahati	–	36.8	27.5	Ranchi	43	28.1	21.4
Hubballi	–	29.0	22.0	Shillong	10	27.3	18.0
Hyderabad	–	31.8	23.0	Shimla	21	24.2	19.8
Imphal	–	30.7	20.3	Srinagar	1	26.0	17.4
Jaipur	9	30.6	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	6	28.6	23.3
Kochi	42	27.0	23.0	Tiruchi	3	32.7	25.4
Kohima	–	29.2	17.1	Vijayawada	–	32.4	27.5
Kolkata	26	30.7	26.3	Visakhapatnam	3	31.3	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	62	45	1.8	144	171	
Bengaluru	7	29	5.6	135	112	
Chennai	56	28	5.5	123	122	
Delhi	–	10	108	179	159	
Hyderabad	12	2	122	141	153	
Kolkata	4	47	2.8	125	134	
Lucknow	7	57	3.4	168	175	
Mumbai	26	–	5.3	122	113	
Pune	–	24	5.3	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	8	48	2.3	146	185	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 163 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

No.:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-82(4)/22-23/5184-85 Date:23.08.2022

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-19/CALL-4 Dt:27.12.2021 for the work of "Providing intermediate towers to 66kV EHT lines passing over Govt schools and colleges at 2 locations pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya" coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.

No.:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F- 82(4)/22-23/5189-90 Date:23.08.2022

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/EPR-26 Dt:23.08.2022 for the work of "Providing intermediate towers to 66kV EHT lines passing over Govt schools and colleges at 2 locations (HTLS conductor) pertaining to TLM sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar in TL&SS Division, SRS Peenya" coming under jurisdiction of BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru.

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 25.08.2022** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e procurement – KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

Government Of Karnataka
(Women And Child Development Department)
Child Development Project Office Koppal
KSGEA building near eshwar temple kinnal road koppal -583231 E-mail:cdpokoppal12@gmail.com

No:CDPO/kpl/Egg/Tender/Mod/Or/2022-23 Date:18.08.2022

Addendum Order

Subject:- To the Beneficiaries of 434 Anganawadi Centers of this Project for the year 2022-23 Regarding Implementation of Addendum order E-Tender Announcement For Purchase of Eggs. Reference:-1) This Office E-Tender Announcement Date:20.07.2022. 2) Head Office Letter No:WCD/ICDS/EGG/1/2021/E-597342 Date:04.08.2022. 3) As per respected DDWCD's oral order date:04/08/2022

E-Tender is Invited for Purchase through tender for distribution of Eggs to the Beneficiaries of Anganawadi Centers Under koppal Child Development Project as per Reference (1). In Relation to the tender called Accordingly, in the letter of the head office Reference No (2), it has been suggested to Modify the Section-V Qualification Criteria in the Documentation of Egg Tender in Sl.No 3. There fore Tender Should be a NECC Registered Polutry Farmer Without Third Party Involment Whether"**Tender Should be a NECC or Karnataka Co-Operative Polutry Fedaration, Registered Polutry Farmer Without Third Party Involment"** has been Modified and ordered in the Tender Document, and Public is Requested to Read Accordingly.

According to reference -3 the time table has been changed as mentioned below.

1. Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender' in eProcurement portal. **Previously Published:** On 20.08.2022 5:00pm. **Revised publication:** On20.09.2022 5:30pm. 2. Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids. **Previously Published:** On 22.08.2022 5:00pm. **Revised publication:** On 22.09.2022 5:00pm. 3. Date and Time of opening of Financial Bids. **Previously Published:** On 30.08.2022 5:00pm. **Revised publication:** On 30.09.2022 5:00pm

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer Koppal Dist. Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/299/MCA/2022-23

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOHALI
(An Autonomous Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology, GOI)
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab

F.No. 14(9)/2021-INST Date: 24.08.2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW (JRF) UNDER "DBT" FUNDED PROJECT

Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) invites applications for engagement of JRF on contractual basis under project entitled "Hierarchically organized amino acid/protein core-shell nanobowls with 2 photon responsive off-on switchable lids for light activable delivery of an array of anti miRNA therapeutics in glioblastoma", for a period of one year and may be extended depending upon the performance of the candidate & availability of funds. **Fellowship: Rs 31,000/- (pm) + 16% HRA. Last date of receipt of application: 6th September, 2022.** For details, candidate may visit **http:inst.ac.in/careers**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
Office of The Project Director, Atal Bhujal Yojana, No 1/1, 2nd Floor, KSFC Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru 560052.
Email: karnatakaabhy@gmail.com

No: ABHY/PROC/18/2022-23 Date: 25.08.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal)

SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invited tender through E-Procurement Portal for Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for following works:

Sl. No: 1) **Tender Notification No:** Atal Jal/Proc/24/2022-23/Call 2. **Name of the Work :** Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 2223 Nos in Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Gadag and Davanagere Districts.

Sl. No : 2) **Tender Notification No :** Atal Jal/Proc/25/2022-23/Call 2. **Name of the Work :** Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 2800 Nos in Kolar and Chikkaballapura Districts.

Sl. No : 3) **Tender Notification No :** Atal Jal/Proc/26/2022-23/Call 2. **Name of the Work :** Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 3196 Nos in Chitradurga and Tumkur Districts.

Sl. No : 4) **Tender Notification No :** Atal Jal/Proc/27/2022-23/Call 2. **Name of the Work :**Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 1352 Nos in Ramanagar and Bangalore Rural Districts.

Sl. No : 5) **Tender Notification No :** Atal Jal/Proc/28/2022-23/Call 2. **Name of the Work :** Supply and Installation of Water Flow Meter including Pre Cast Hollow Concrete Chamber along with 2 years AMC for 1223 Nos in Chikkamagalur, Hassan and Chamarajanagar Districts.

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded through 'E-Procurement portal' from 25.08.2022, 11.30 Hrs onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before 03.09.2022, 17.30 Hrs.

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 10.00 hrs to 17.30 hrs.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority
SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojan, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1944/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)

No: KPCL/2022-23/PM/WORK_INDENT12794 Date: 23.08.2022

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** for the work of **Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning and Calibration of 3 Nos Radar Level Transmitters for MOT Level measurement at RTPS-Unit#7. EMD:** Rs. 8,540/-. Last date and time for receipt of tender: **09.09.2022 at 17.00 hrs.** Date and time for operation of 1) Technical bid: **12.09.2022 at 16.00 hrs.** 2) Price bid: **14.09.2022 at 16.00 hrs.** All the relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from **The Executive Engineer (I)-4, RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar - 584170. Raichur District.**

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWDept. Shimoga Division, Shimoga
NO.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-25/2022-23 Dtd:23-08-2022

Short Tender Notification

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement (http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in) for the below Indents by PWD Class-1, Class-2 Contractors. For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

3054-04-337-1-10-200: 1. Hosanagara Tq 1 Work
3054-03-337-0-05-200: 2. Hosanagara Tq 1 Work
5054-03-337-0-17-154: 3. Soraba Tq 1 Work

Tender documents down loading & submission dates : Dtd:25-08-2022 to 08-09-2022 Period for completion of works Sl No.1 Works 9 Months, Sl.No:2 & 3 Works 6 Months (Including Monsoon)

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/no.112/08/22-23/815

Government of Karnataka
Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs
Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru

No: FCS/CA/FC/ADVT/06/2020-21 Dt: 25.08.2022

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for appointment to the posts of whole time **Chairperson** (One) and **Members** (five) in the **"Karnataka State Food Commission"** set up by Government of Karnataka under the provisions of the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)** The Chairperson and Members of the State Food Commission are to perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as prescribed under the **NFSA Act-2013 and relevant Government Order FCS 52 DRA 2012 dated:10.06.2016** made thereunder. The Head Office of the Commission will be at Bengaluru.

For Complete information on qualification, eligibility criteria, application form and other details the applicants are requested to visit and download the same from the Department's website: **www.ahara.kar.nic.in** under 'Notification' link. The last date for receipt of application complete in all respect is **14.09.2022.**

Note: Those who had already applied as per the notification dated: 12.11.2020 and 29.06.2021 for Chairmen and Members post need not apply again.

Sd/- Additional Chief Secretary
FCS & CA Dept

DIPR/DD-C.P/1929/MCA/2022-23

Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Civil Wing
PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Bengaluru, invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate e-tenders for the following work:

N.I.T. No. : **36/PCD/BGL/2022-23**
Name of Work : **Provision of Bitumen Road from Main Gate to CEPT and New Formation from CEPT to TYPE- I Quarters and Extension of road near Main Building at PTC Campus, Mysuru.**
Estimated Cost : **₹39,72,668/-**
Earnest Money: **₹79,453/-**, Period of completion : **02 Months**
Last time and date of submission of bid : **02.09.2022 15.00hrs.**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://dopcivil.euniwizarde.com**

Executive Engineer(C)
Postal Civil Division
Bengaluru- 560032.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/Civil/2022-23/CYS-20 Date: 24.08.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for **Protection works to Transmission line towers** coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hubballi.

The detailed notification regarding works called through the e-procurement mode can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** . Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Karawar Road, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi-24.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2022-23/1850-1851 Dated:23.08.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work of **(1) Indent No. 22994 for Rs. 111.47 Lakhs (2) Indent No. 22993 for Rs. 84.66 Lakhs. The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 24.08.2022 to 14.09.2022 up to 5-00 PM. Pre-bid Meeting (Indent No. 22994) Dated: 02.09.2022 up to 11-00 AM at Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti Office. Cover-I (Technical Bid) will be opened on 16.09.2022 at 11-00AM Cover-II (Financial Bid) will be opened on 20.09.2022 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti

ಜಾಪಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/384/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23

Family matters

The Congress is looking at a new leadership, but the Gandhis cannot be aloof or meddling

The Congress is all set to be led by someone who is not from the Nehru-Gandhi family, with Rahul Gandhi making it clear that he is in no mood to return as party president. The party will finalise the schedule for organisational elections at a meeting of the Congress Working Committee on Sunday. The family itself is leading the search for the replacement. Mr. Gandhi had resigned as president following the drubbing of the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. He had led the campaign, and he took responsibility for the failure; but also felt let down by party seniors who he thought did not fight the election with their mind and soul in it. By turning down the pleas of his ardent followers to return to the helm, he has challenged Congress leaders to adopt a new culture, moving away from the familiar habit of relying on the family as the lifeblood and a façade simultaneously. For the Congress party, this challenge is no less than the external challenge of extinction that it faces from the Bharatiya Janata Party. His discomfort with formal power might make him seem a reluctant politician, but he has expressed a desire to be in public life as a matter of his democratic duty.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has emerged as the front runner for the post, for various reasons. Mr. Gehlot is an astute politician, a manager of conflicting interests, and deeply embedded in the Congress structure from the grassroots to the pinnacle. His charm, accessibility, clean image and expertise in heartland politics make him a good fit. He wears his loyalty to the Gandhi family on his sleeve, but remains acceptable to multiple groups within the Congress. If at all there is a contest for the post of party president, that will only enhance the legitimacy of the winner. However, with the Gandhi siblings in active politics, the authority that Mr. Gehlot or anyone else can exercise within the party as president will remain a complicated question. If Mr. Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra continue to remain active decision makers, as they have been in the recent past, the situation could turn out to be chaotic. Mr. Gandhi has done the honourable thing by refusing to buckle under pressure and return as president. But he, his sister, and their mother Mrs. Gandhi, should all have very clearly defined contours of involvement in the functioning of the party. A non-Gandhi at the helm can be a good attempt at rebooting the Congress, but that by itself is no guarantee of its revival. The new president should have the authority, legitimacy and vision to infuse new energy in the party. Ironically, the burden of ensuring that is upon none other than the Gandhi family, who will have to be supportive without being seen as interfering.

Keep it simple

Any mandatory linking of Aadhaar to the voter ID is problematic

One of the clear successes of Indian democracy has been the regular conduct of elections and the relatively high participation of electors in the voting process compared to other countries. Besides the fact that the process is relatively simple with the use of the electronic voting machine, high voter turnout has also been possible due to registration drives by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Periodically, the ECI does face the issue of a cleaning up of electoral rolls due to increases in migrant populations in urban sprawls, demographic changes due to the entry of more eligible voters, besides deaths of older people. But repeated cycles of elections have allowed for a cohesion in this process with voters allowed to register based on proofs of their age and current place of residence. With the increase in the school-educated population, and most Indian citizens living in houses whose addresses are to be mentioned in several identity documents, registering to vote is a relatively easy process. This begs the question as to why election authorities are coercing citizens to mandatorily link registration in voter rolls with their Aadhaar number, as recent reports have indicated. In December 2021, the Lok Sabha passed the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill seeking to link the voter identity card with the Aadhaar number in order to avoid errors such as voter duplication on the electoral roll. But the Government and later, ECI authorities, have insisted that this process would be voluntary.

The Aadhaar number is not a proof of citizenship and is meant to be issued to residents, while only adult citizens who are resident in India are eligible to vote. Instrumentally speaking, matching the Aadhaar number to the electoral roll in order to perform verifications is not a foolproof process. The Internet Freedom Foundation has cited data to show that self-reported errors in the Aadhaar database are higher than those in the electoral database. There is also evidence that Aadhaar-linkage with voter identity cards, as in the Assembly elections in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh recently, for example, led to the arbitrary deletion of eligible voters on a large scale. Besides, with the Aadhaar number now being used to access a variety of services, linking to voter IDs, when aggregated from booth level data, can possibly lead to misuse by agencies that can access them to profile voters based on harvested information. The absence of a data protection law heightens the risk of this possibility as well. Scholars studying elections in various countries have averred that simplicity of design and effectiveness of constitutional institutions such as the ECI have gone a long way in easing voting and setting India apart as an electoral democracy. The insistence on linking Aadhaar with the voter ID militates against these principles. The ECI should limit itself to utilising existing proofs for voter authentication and Aadhaar declaration should remain voluntary.

Heading the G20 and New Delhi's choices

With geopolitical currents redefining geo-economics, India needs to be ready to emerge as the chief global diplomat

RAJIV BHATIA

The clock is ticking. In about three months, India will assume for the first time the Group of 20 (G20) year-long presidency from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.The subsequent months will witness India hosting over 200 meetings with hundreds of ministers, officials, diplomats, businessmen, non-governmental organisations, working groups, and engagement groups of the G20 composed of 19 powerful economies and the European Union (EU).

India has hosted large international conferences such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in 1983 and the Third India-Africa Forum summit in 2015. But nothing compares with hosting the G20. It is the world's informal steering directorate on global economic issues; it entails the responsibility of shaping decision-making on key challenges facing the world today; and its summit is preceded by a large quantum of preparatory deliberations that feed into the final outcome.

Importance, complexities

It is essential to neither overstress nor underestimate the significance of the G20's work. The G20 membership represents nearly 90% of the world's GDP, 80% of global trade, and 67% of the planet's population. It is an advisory body, not a treaty-based forum and, therefore, its decisions are recommendations to its own members.

The weight of this powerful membership carries enormous political and economic influence. The representation of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, and other multilateral institutions in it makes the G20 an incomparable body.

The G20 has played a vital role in addressing financial and economic challenges such as the global financial crisis of 2008-09 and the Eurozone crisis of 2010. The forum was elevated from the finance ministers to the heads of government/state in 2008. This was the era of the G8 (up to 2014 when Russia was suspended), of the major powers – the United States, the EU, Russia, and also China, but they needed to work together with the emerging economies in defining global challenges and crafting their solutions.

However, in this second decade of the G20, the forum is faced with an existential crisis, where the major powers have fallen out. It makes the task of the presidency country much more complicated, as the current president (Indonesia) is discovering.

The disastrous impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine, India-China border tensions, EU/U.S.-Russia hostility, and deteriorating U.S.-China relations are already visible in the run-up to the 2022 Bali summit (in November) where all G20 leaders may not be sitting physically in the same room. The outcome in Bali will affect the Delhi summit. Indian officials are thus carefully planning their strategy as the burden and the prestige of the presidency are bestowed on India. They know well that the currents of geopolitics are redefining the contours of geo-economics today. Their mission will be not only to save the G20 but also the future of multilateral cooperation in diverse domains of the grouping's multi-dimensional agenda.

AP

India's choices

Guided by the triple motivation of promoting India's national interest, leaving its mark on the G20, and maintaining its primacy as an effective instrument of global governance, there are four different ideas have emerged in New Delhi.

First, the G20 presidency offers a unique branding opportunity for India's recent achievements, including the ability to combat COVID-19 effectively at home and abroad through vaccine aid and diplomacy. Other major achievements are India's digital revolution, its steady progress in switching to renewables, meeting its targets to counter climate change, and its push for self-reliance in manufacturing and reshaping global value chains. New trends in entrepreneurship, business innovation, the rise of many start-ups as unicorns, and gender progress too need to be showcased. A single-year presidency does not empower the host to change the world, but India can provide evidence of its domestic successes, tested at the continental scale, for global adoption. It can also be utilised to transform India's sub-optimal physical infrastructure to create an attractive investment and tourism destination, especially as several important G20 meetings will be hosted outside Delhi.

Second, by a remarkable coincidence, four democracies on the path to becoming powerful economic players – Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa – hold the presidency from December 2021 to November 2025. This offers a rare opportunity for synergy and solidarity to advance the interests of the developing world and to assert their combined leadership of the Global South.

Third, another exceptional coincidence is that all three members of IBSA – India, Brazil, and South Africa – will hold the G20 presidency consecutively in 2023, 2024, and 2025. This forum, insulated from the geopolitical pressures constraining the BRICS (where these three countries are required to work with Russia and China), can develop a cohesive plan to project the priority concerns of the Global South. IBSA needs an urgent rejuvenation by convening an informal meeting of its top leaders, perhaps on the sidelines of the Bali summit.

Four, India needs to get ready to emerge as the chief global diplomat. As the G20 president, India will be obliged to take a broader view of the G20 agenda to synthesise divergent interests of all constituents of the forum: five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the developed world united under the flag of the G7, five members of BRICS, and other G20 members such as Argentina and Mexico. More importantly, as the president and host, India should factor in the perspectives of countries not represented in the G20. India will advocate an inclusive approach, with pragmatic and human-centric solutions to global issues. An important aim should be to end Africa's marginalisation by elevating the African Union (AU) from permanent observer to a full-fledged member of the G20, thus placing it on a par with the EU.

A parting thought

These four choices are not mutually exclusive. It is possible to weld them together to create a holistic and comprehensive approach for the Indian presidency of the G20. The challenge is to combine an India-focused view, promote the vital interests of the Global South, and demonstrate diplomatic acumen to communicate with and reconcile the viewpoints of rival and adversarial power centres such as the West, Russia, and China. India today is in the enviable position to deliver this unique package. It must rise to the occasion.

Rajiv Bhatia, a former Ambassador, is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. He is also an author, writing regularly on multilateral governance

Making out a case for the other UBI in India

There are good reasons why Universal Basic Insurance is a better proposition than Universal Basic Income

RAJESH GUPTA

It took the COVID-19 pandemic to expose the precariousness of human society across the world. As the importance of social security came into focus after the major waves of the pandemic, the debate on universal basic income (UBI) began to resurface in policy circles across the globe. However, there is another UBI that needs to be examined in the Indian context, i.e., universal basic insurance. Before discussing the second UBI, or insurance, it is worthwhile looking at the design options for social security.

Types of security nets

Income shocks result in a free fall of those living on the line of basic living wages (say line 1) down towards the critical survival line (say line 2). In any case, a fall that is further below line 2 needs to be prevented as it can be catastrophic – a household can end up facing a poverty trap. Social security systems are like a safety net placed at line 2. These social security nets can be of three types. The first is a passive safety net which catches those falling from line 1 and prevents a fall below line 2. The second is an active safety net which works like a trampoline so that those who fall on it are able to bounce back to line 1. The third is a proactive safety net which acts like a launchpad so that those who fall on it will not only bounce back but will also move up beyond line 1.

The first type of safety net is basically a social assistance programme meant for the most income-deprived sections of society. The second type of safety net is a scheme with a higher outlay. The third type of social security net is the most desirable option but requires immense resources and institutional capacity. For social security, people on the south end of the income line need social assistance schemes. Those on the north end of the income line should have voluntary insurance.

Social security mainly encompasses food security, health security and income security. India operates the widest spectrum of social security schemes which cater to the largest number of people than any other country. The sheer scale of Indian social security programmes delivered to millions of households spread over a vast geography is mind-boggling.

The Indian food security programme, for example, has over 800 million beneficiaries being provided heavily subsidised food grain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The NFSA is the world's largest food security programme. About 120 million children are provided free lunch under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. In addition, some 50 million people benefit from the free meals programme run by a few State governments. Nevertheless, there are issues of financial sustainability and leakages in the food security programme.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For health and income

On the health security front, for the unorganised sector, there is the Ayushman Bharat Scheme of the central government with over 490 million beneficiaries. In the organised sector, the Central government runs the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) catering to 130 million and four million beneficiaries, respectively. Health insurance schemes run by various State governments cover about 200 million people. Only about 110 million people in India have private health insurance. Despite these large-scale provisions, about 400 million Indians are not covered under any kind of health insurance.

Income security is the trickiest part to tackle in the social security basket. For the organised sector, there are three types of provident fund schemes: General Provident Fund (GPF) which is availed by about 20 million Central and State government employees in the country. The second is the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) which is availed by about 65 million workers in the other organised sector. The third is Public Provident Fund (PPF) that can be availed by any Indian citizen but has contributions from the organised sector mostly. There are about 53 million New Pension Scheme subscribers in the country (about 2.2 million in the Central government, 5.6 million in the State government and the rest in the private sector).

In the unorganised sector, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY) and the PM-KISAN scheme is availed by about 120 million farmers. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) benefits 40 million people. The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana has about five million beneficiaries while there are about 50,000 beneficiaries under the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) scheme. The largest unorganised sector income security programme is the scheme under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which has about 60 million beneficiaries. Thus, out of 500 million workers in India, about 100 million have no income security (pension, gratuity or other income) coverage. Proponents of universal basic income cite the informality of the Indian economy as the hurdle in rolling out schemes such as unemployment insurance in the country. However, besides huge fiscal implications (around 4.5% of GDP), the proposal of universal basic income runs the risk of implementation failure due to large-scale beneficiary identification requirements.

Why UBI

The other UBI, i.e. universal basic insurance, is a better proposition for two reasons. One, the insurance penetration (premium as a percentage of GDP) in India has been hovering around 4% for many years compared to 17%, 9% and 6% in Taiwan, Japan and China, respectively. Two, though the economy largely remains informal, data of that informal sector are now available both for businesses (through GSTIN, or Goods and Services Tax Identification Number) and for unorganised workers (through e-Shram, which is the centralised database of all unorganised workers). As a result of the recent initiatives by the Government, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal has 13.5 million registrations and the e-Shram portal has over 280 million registrations. As a prototype of a social security portal based on such data, the social registry portal, 'Kutumba', developed by Karnataka is available as a blueprint. Till the Indian economy grows to have adequate voluntary insurance, social security can be boosted through the scheme of universal basic insurance.

Rajesh Gupta is a research scholar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Take over bid

The independent media in India is already an endangered entity. In such a scenario, if the 'rigorous attempts' being made to take over an independent television media network are any yardstick (Page 1, August 24), one needs to understand how much significance there is to such attempts being made by 'friends' of the ruling regime to 'tame' the critical visual media. This development should be an eye-opener to the Opposition parties, too. Instead of daydreaming about prime ministerial candidates, they should focus attention on ensuring that highlighting the shortcomings of the ruling regime resonates with the common man.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ A strong print and electronic media are a *sine qua non* for a vibrant democracy, and any intrusion into their normal functioning is a threat to the very foundations of democracy. There appear to be political undertones to the hostile bid to take over the TV channel in question. It must also be noted that a few journalists and news anchors associated with the channel have aired concerns about the obstruction of free and independent journalism, and the carving of a 'monolithic media' which is the voice of its political masters.

DR. BIJU C. MATHEW,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

■ The report is a shock for every discerning watcher of news channels, especially English channels, and at a time when most are alike in content and degree of political bias. There is enough reason to attribute political rather than business motives for the said move by the powerful business group. If the bid succeeds, the broadcaster might join the bandwagon of 'cheerleaders' for the powers that be.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,
Puducherry

■ If the bid succeeds, it would be a sad day for the fourth estate in India. The powers that be seem unable to digest anyone bringing out the truth. A hostile takeover will signal the end of another pillar, or whatever is left of it, of the edifice called democracy.

VARGHESE GEORGE,
Hyderabad

Leadership issue

By making her intent more than clear to anoint senior Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot as her successor as far as the Congress presidentship is concerned, the incumbent president Sonia Gandhi has already weakened the authenticity and credibility of the claim of a proper election process (Page 1, "Sonia urges Gehlot to 'lead' Congress", August 24). It suggests the introduction of version 2 of backseat driving, the first being the erosion of the authority of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. One only hopes that the remedy is not worse than the malady.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ It appears that nothing much may change in the functioning of the Congress, if one looks at the attempts being made to 'install' a Gandhi loyalist as the president of the party through an 'election'. Does not the act of the incumbent president asking Mr. Gehlot to 'take over' the presidentship amount to influencing the electoral college of Pradesh Congress Committee delegates and making a mockery of the election process? What the Congress needs is an able and articulate leader with national stature and firm ideological moorings, with the capability to galvanise the cadres, enthuse the people and create confidence in them about the ability of the party to fulfil their aspirations and honestly deliver on promises, if elected to power.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

On remission

The release of the 11 convicts in Gujarat involved in the heinous crime of gang rape and murder has obviously triggered outrage, especially after their felicitation, seemingly glorifying their obnoxious acts. Now that the Supreme Court of India has agreed to consider listing a plea challenging the grant of remission by the Gujarat government, there is an imperative need to examine the entire gamut of remissions in order to make them ethically relevant as well. There should be the requisite legal framework making it mandatory for governments to seek the consent of the kin of the deceased and survivors. .

G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Roads in Chennai

Most of the roads in Chennai are in a very bad condition, with large craters, potholes, patches or mounds common. The State has a very dynamic Chief Minister. Citizens earnestly request him to address their grievances as far as roads are concerned. Should not a top city in India have world class and motorable roads? It should be a pleasure and not a pain to use these roads for driving and even walking.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

Strangling Tunisia's democracy

Kais Saied is a populist zealot who promises El Dorado even as he leads his country into a quagmire

TALMIZ AHMAD

On August 16, the results of the referendum on the amendments to the national constitution proposed by Tunisian president Kais Saied were formally endorsed by the election commission, effectively terminating the country's brief encounter with a democratic order. Tunisia, the shining success story of the Arab Spring, now stares at autocracy and chaos.

It has taken a year to reach this nadir. Last year, on July 25, Mr. Saied had abruptly suspended parliament, dismissed the prime minister, deprived the assembly members of their immunity, and declared he would now rule by presidential decree. Members of parliament attempting to enter the assembly were blocked by the armed forces.

Presidential coup

A well-known constitutional expert with no party or political affiliations, Mr. Saied came to power in 2019 in a landslide victory over several established politicians. Quickly thereafter, he began to express disdain for his country's political class, refused to interact with political parties and civil society groups, and chaffed at the constitutional "locks" that prevented him from taking action to effect the economic reforms that were urgently demanded by the people. On July 25, 2021, he finally affected a "coup" against the very constitution that had empowered him.

The presidential coup initially enjoyed considerable popular support – it was estimated that Mr. Saied was backed by over 80% of his people, with support hovering between 70% and 80% over the next few months. This was largely because, while the country had given itself a democratic constitution in 2015, the assembly was deeply divided by diverse political groups, which made it impossible to pass the legislation to bring about the reforms the country needed. The assembly, instead, was seen as a corrupt and dysfunctional institution. The amnesty granted by parliament in 2017 to those from the former regime who were accused of corruption and criminal conduct thoroughly discredited the assembly and the democratic process itself.

In December 2021, Mr. Saied announced a "road map" for political change – online "consultations" on constitutional reform, a committee to propose amendments to the constitution, and finally a nationwide referendum on the proposed changes in July 2022. In April this year, the president dissolved the parliament, and initiated inquiries for "conspiracy" among prominent political leaders, including Rachid Ghannouchi, head of the Islamist Ennahda party.

But Mr. Saied had got his priorities wrong. While he dabbled in constitutional changes, Tunisia slid deeper into an economic malaise: inflation reached 8%, while unemployment was 16%, reaching 40% among the youth. As the currency depreciated by 60% and purchasing power fell by 40%, Tunisia's credit rating was downgraded to 'CCC'. Following the war in Ukraine, as wheat supplies from Russia and Ukraine got disrupted and prices shot up, Mr. Saied decreed that those spreading "fake news" about food shortages would be arrested.

Mr. Saied initiated a dialogue with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to obtain $4 billion for economic support, but the IMF insisted on a sharp reduction in subsidies on goods and services, a freeze on public sector wages, and privatisation of public sector companies. These conditions alienated the country's powerful trade union, the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT, in its French acronym) from the president.

Popular disenchantment

The UGTT had played a major role in the Arab Spring uprisings that had ousted President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in 2011. It had then facilitated national reconciliation among feuding politicians that led to the nationally accepted constitution of 2015, an achievement that led to the UGTT joining three other Tunisian groups in winning the Nobel Peace Prize that year. Last year, the UGTT had initially backed Mr. Saied's initiatives to strengthen the presidency, but, amidst the deteriorating economic conditions and the president's misguided focus on constitutional changes, it became a sharp critic of the president. On June 16, it called a general strike to protest the economic situation and the conditions being proposed by the IMF for its loan. With its one million members in a country of 12 million, the UGTT is a formidable opponent, particularly with its ability to influence popular opinion against the president's political and economic plans.

The constitutional amendments to obtain a "new republic" were prepared by an advisory committee appointed by the president. These amendments had just one purpose – to strengthen the president by removing all constraints on the exercise of untrammelled power by him. A commentator noted that the amendments provided for "an unbridled presidential system, with an omnipotent president, a powerless parliament, and a toothless judiciary".

However, there is now a pervasive apathy among Tunisians about the president's policies, which is reflected in the absence of active support for his initiatives in the shape of popular demonstrations or actual votes in his favour – the referendum attracted a turnout of just over 27%. With a 96% 'yes' vote, the election commission declared the amendments as having been approved.

Outlook for Tunisia

For several months, American senators, congressmen, diplomats and academics have been lamenting the demise of Tunisia's democracy and calling on President Joe Biden to pressurise Mr. Saied to prevent the political backslide. But no magic formula has emerged to correct the situation, despite Mr. Biden's avowed commitment to promote democracy globally.

The instrument of cutting off military or economic aid has been viewed as a non-starter: the Tunisian armed forces are major U.S. allies and central to the fight against extremist forces, while reduced economic assistance would make the Tunisians' living conditions more miserable. Mr. Saied has the option to turn to Saudi Arabia and the UAE for political and economic support – both of them are believed to have backed Mr. Saied's constitutional coup in order to subvert the Islamist Ennahda as a political player in the country.

As the euphoria of a decade ago turns to ashes, the Tunisian experience has exposed the daunting challenges in achieving political and economic change after an authoritarian order has been overthrown. Crony capitalism, in which economic power remains with a few business families, has remained in place and works closely with politicians who integrate themselves with the 'deep state' and prioritise personal interest over national well-being.

External players are of no help – the U.S. has neither interest in nor the capacity to promote democracy, while Saudi Arabia and the UAE work assiduously to upend the democratic order that provides a place for political Islam, however accommodative it might be. And as the nation sinks into an economic abyss, the IMF remains committed to policy approaches that indicate little sensitivity towards the privations the people are going through.

Mr. Saied is only the latest example of a populist zealot who promises El Dorado even as he leads his country into a quagmire.

Talmiz Ahmad is a former diplomat

The death of Inder Meghwal

While there are doubts over how the boy died, it is a fact that untouchability is practised in the villages of Rajasthan

KHINVRAJ JANGID

Inder Meghwal, a nine-year-old boy, died recently in a village in the Jalore district of Rajasthan. The family say he succumbed to injuries caused by an assault by a teacher in his school who was angry that the young boy drank from a water pot meant for 'upper castes'. The accused, Chail Singh, who is in custody, says he did slap the boy – not because of the reason stated, but because Inder had quarrelled with another student. Inder's family members assert that the boy was beaten brutally due to his caste.

An unusual place

Many testimonies and individual claims have been made that neither the school nor the Rajput teacher holds any bias against the Meghwals, a community considered "untouchable" in Rajasthan. Some reports state that Inder had been suffering from a ear infection and probably died of septicemia, or sepsis (the clinical name for blood poisoning by bacteria), rather than brain hemorrhage caused by the teacher's slap. Doctors have considered the possibility that the infection could have been aggravated by the assault. Reports also say there is no upper caste pot in the premises of the school; all the students and teachers, some of whom are from 'lower castes', drink water from one source – a cement tank. This is the most unlikely source of drinking water in the hot summer of Rajasthan. Generally, people drink from a clay pot (*matki*). Nevertheless, Inder's village (and school) must be an unusual place in Rajasthan as it doesn't have caste practices.

I went to a school similar to the one Inder attended. It was a poorly maintained building. There were no benches or chairs; students sat on the floor. Everyday life at home, in school and in the village was governed by caste norms. Untouchability was, and still is, practised in the villages of Rajasthan. People from upper castes think of it as normal and desirable because they believe it is the right way to practise the Hindu religion. People of lower castes such as the Meghwals consider it a part and parcel of their lives. They remain forbidden from the main temple of the village; they are not invited to weddings and festivals of the upper castes; and they don't mingle with upper castes. Occasionally, when the whole village assembles on Holi or Diwali or during elections, they sit separately, not on the same carpets. Usually, they sit next to the spot where upper caste men take off their slippers.

That is how I saw the world as a child in one such village between Jodhpur and Jalore. The school I attended had many Meghwal boys and I befriended some of them. Students used to do all sorts of chores – they used to clean the floors every morning and bring drinking water in pots from the main water tank of the village. There were separate water pots for the upper and lower castes all through the decade I was in the school. We knew the caste norms and followed them. Meghwal boys were exempted from one task, which was to make chai for the teachers. Most teachers were from the upper castes and drank chai twice a day. The job of making chai was that of boys from the upper castes and Other Backward Classes.

Though I was best friends with some of the Meghwal boys, I could not invite any of them home or even tell my family that I went to their homes. I still have the vivid memory of my first visit to a friend's home. Everyone was astonished that I accepted their offer to drink water and tea. I once tried to bring a friend home, got caught, and was told strictly not to do that again.

Political considerations

Inder's village, Surana, seems unique without the rotten practice of caste. I see villagers and some local politicians on TV and YouTube videos claiming that there aren't any incidents of caste discrimination around them. I am perplexed. Not long ago, I read a report in *The Print* that "weddings for Dalits in Rajasthan are no less than tragic suspense thrillers", for the family of the groom doesn't know if they will reach the bride's house without getting beaten up by people of dominant castes. Discriminatory caste practices are often not acknowledged or addressed because of political considerations and vote-bank politics. Leaders have their narrow political interests in mind rather than social transformation for a better and just society for all. The police are few in number, prejudiced against the lower castes, and often not given the freedom to present all the facts.

Now there is doubt over the cause of Inder's death. Was it the infection, aggravated by the slap, that took his life? Was it unruly behaviour rather than untouchability? Who will get the benefit of doubt is also a critical point of this sad case. Lastly, I am deeply saddened that teachers still beat students. This is a great agony for me, a teacher, to bear.

Khinvraj Jangid is Associate Professor and Director, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University and currently adjunct faculty at Ben-Gurion University, Israel

STATE OF PLAY

The battle for Lingayat votes

As Yediyurappa's sway over Lingayats is seen as waning, Congress is trying to woo the community

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat caste narrative in Karnataka politics has come to the fore again as the ruling BJP and the principal Opposition party, the Congress, are battling for this crucial vote bank, about eight months before the Assembly polls.

Earlier this month, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the Murugha Mutt, a prominent Lingayat mutt in central Karnataka, where he underwent a 'Linga Dharana' initiation. Soon after, the BJP inducted Lingayat strongman and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa into the party's Parliamentary Board and Central Election Committee. The 79-year-old's elevation to the two key panels is being viewed as an attempt by the party to soothe the hurt pride of the Lingayat leader after he was forced to step down from the Chief Minister's post. Days later, former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition, Siddaramaiah, who has been accused of attempting to divide the community by supporting a movement for a separate religion status to them in 2017, met the seer of Rambhapuri Mutt, another prominent religious institution. He is believed to have explained to the seer the sequences of events that led to that movement. The KPCC campaign committee head M.B. Patil has also been criss-crossing the State visiting Lingayat mutts.

The Congress's attempts to woo back Lingayat voters comes at a time when Mr. Yediyurappa's sway over the community is seen as waning. Observers of Lingayat politics believe that the community stood by him in the past since he had a chance to become the Chief Minister, which will not be the case in the next election.

In a scenario where the Lingayat voter is looking for an alternative, the Congress believes that it is the best choice, given that the JD(S) is perceived as a party of the Vokkaligas. The Congress is said to believe that riding on the combination of votes of the minorities, backward classes, especially the Kurubas, and the Lingayats with a chunk of support from the Scheduled Castes (SCs) would be its best bet to return to power. However, it still has to fight with the JD (S) for the Vokkaliga votes in south Karnataka despite D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, helming the KPCC.

For the parties, the politically aware Lingayats remain crucial since an average 60 Veerashaiva-Lingayats have been getting elected as members to the 224-member Assembly since 2008. The community leaders believe that their political clout diminished post 2008 when about eight constituencies that had returned only Lingayat legislators till then were subsumed under other constituencies and about 22 such constituencies were reserved for SCs and Scheduled Tribes in the delimitation exercise. Before that, an average 70 legislators were getting elected to the Assembly.

In the reserved constituencies too, Lingayat support is seen as decisive. Even in the battle for Vokkaliga votes in south Karnataka, Lingayats are believed to be decisive in many constituencies in Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Hassan and Tumakuru. Barring 2013, when Mr. Yediyurappa broke away from BJP to form the Karnataka Janata Paksha, more than 50% of the total Lingayat legislators elected to the Assembly have belonged to the BJP since 2004.

Already battling the anti-incumbency factor with allegations of corruption and weak governance, the BJP government is in a fix over the demand for 2A reservation status by the Panchamasalis, a powerful Lingayat sub-sect, and for the inclusion of all Lingayat sub-sects in the Central OBC list. Observers also believe that the fact that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat, succeeded Mr. Yediyurappa has not fully satisfied the community. With the parties already in election mode, Lingayat politics is likely to turn crucial like it did in 2013 and 2018.

sharath.srivatsa@thehindu.co.in

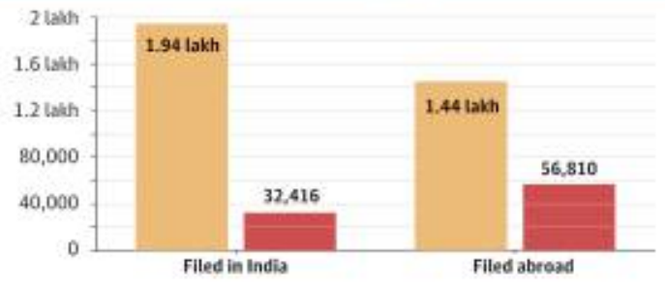
DATA POINT

Patient wait for patents

More than 40% Indian-origin applicants chose to file patents in foreign countries due to the inordinate delays in the approval process in India, where there is a shortage of manpower. In the last two decades, only 17% of the patent applications filed in India by people of Indian origin were granted, whereas the share was more than double for those filed abroad. Also, the share of applications filed in India which were withdrawn or abandoned was among the highest in the world in 2020. India took over 60 months to process patents, whereas the U.S. and China only took one-third of the time. Compared to India, the manpower in patent offices was 15 times and 9 times higher in China and the U.S., respectively. By **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

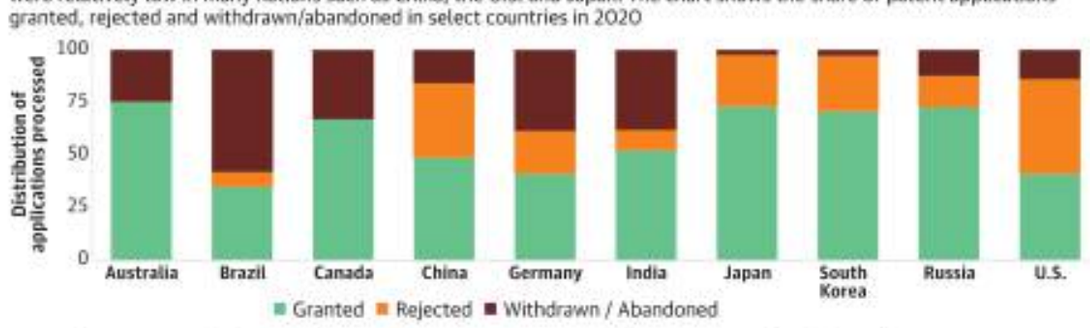
1 Filing in India and abroad

Between 2000 and 2020, Indian-origin applicants filed for 1.9 lakh patents in India and 1.4 lakh outside India. Of those filed in India, only 17% (about 32,000) were granted, while of those filed outside India, 39% (about 56,810) were granted



2 Withdrawal rate

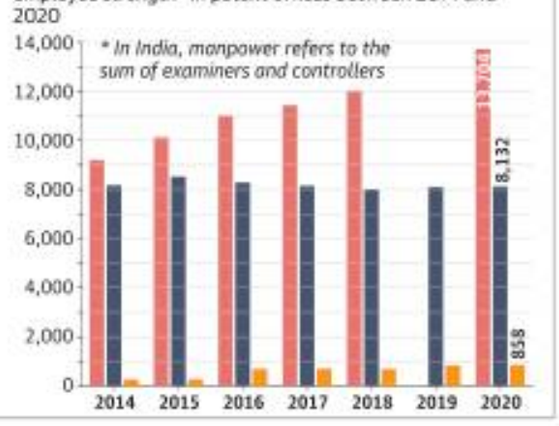
About 37% of the patent applications filed in India in 2020 were withdrawn or abandoned. The withdrawal rates were relatively low in many nations such as China, the U.S. and Japan. The chart shows the share of patent applications granted, rejected and withdrawn/abandoned in select countries in 2020



3 Slow processing speed | The chart shows the average time taken in select countries* to process patent applications. The time taken in India for the first office action is 4.8 months in 2021-22, among the quickest. But it takes 58 months for the final disposal of applications, the slowest among select nations

** Numbers for India is from the end of 2021-22, while the numbers for other countries are from 2020*

4 Manpower shortage | The number of employees in India's patent offices is much lower compared to countries such as the U.S. and China. This leads to a high pendency rate. The chart shows the employee strength* in patent offices between 2014 and 2020



SOURCE: WIPO.INT, EACPM.GOV.IN

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 25, 1972

Japan's 'basic attitude' to Taiwan

Tokyo, Aug. 24: Under a new basic attitude formulated by the Government in regard to the Taiwan question Japan does not intend to remove Taiwan from the scope of "Far East" as defined in the security treaty with the United States as an area in which American forces in Japan will go into action in case of an armed conflict in the area it is reported here to-day. This attitude will be maintained by the Japanese Government. Notwithstanding the speed with which it is going about normalising diplomatic relations with Peking at the cost of its political ties with Taiwan. Under this new basic view Japan's position would seem to be that in the event of an armed conflict breaking out in the area as soon as Sino-Japanese relations are normalised the U.S. would be permitted to use its forces stationed in Japan to go to Taiwan's help. In other words, Japan does not want to see Taiwan belong to China simultaneously with normalisation but desires such integration to take place only at some distant date in the future. Observers view this new reported Japanese attitude as a foxy one. According to them by doing so Japan is taking a calculated risk. It can tell the U.S. that it is not resiling from its given pledge to it and yet it would not be facing any imminent risk of being involved in a war because under the existing detente in the Far East there is little chance of any new conflagration breaking out. At the same time it can tell Peking that it was only temporary phase which would soon pass.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 25, 1922

Non-official business

Simla, Aug. 24: The ballot for non-official business in the Assembly on 7th September has resulted in the setting down of five resolutions. The first will be moved by Mr. Ujjagar Singh with a view to abolish the rule that requires the presence of the voters of the landholders' constituencies at polling stations at the time of voting. The next stands in the name of Maulvi Asdajullah who is the only speaker who addresses the House in vernacular urges the State management of railways. The third resolution will be moved by Mr. Joshi, pressing for greater facilities for third class passengers. The next two motions recommend reduction of Provincial Contribution by two crores so that relief may be given to Madras, Punjab and the United Provinces. These stand in the names of Fyaz Khan and Gujjan Singh.

FROM PAGE ONE

Nitish govt. wins floor test in Bihar Assembly

Mr. Prasad also recalled what Mr. Kumar and RJD leaders had said after Mr. Kumar severed ties with RJD in 2017.

In his reply to Mr. Prasad, Deputy Chief Minister the Tejashwi Yadav slammed BJP and said the party had only three sons-in-law – CBI, ED and I-T. "With our joining hands again, the real threat for the BJP is the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The BJP wanted to foment communal tension in Bihar, but we want special status and special package," said Mr. Tejashwi, adding, "*jo darega woh marega, jo ladega woh jitega* (those who get frightened will die, those who fight will win)".

Mr. Tejashwi also called Mr. Kumar a brave leader and friend of his father. "We all have socialist ideology and we'll together bring development to Bihar," he said while praising his father Mr. Lalu Prasad "for never succumbing before communal forces". Later, Mr. Kumar took on the BJP and alleged that today no work was being done by the Centre except "advertisement and publicity".

Mr. Hazari adjourned the House till August 25.

CBI searches residences of RJD leaders

During the searches, also conducted in Delhi and Gurugram, the agency had so far seized more than 200 property sale documents, said an official.

"The raids were done intentionally by the Centre. I will file a defamation suit against the CBI," alleged RJD treasurer Sunil Singh.

Janata Dal (United) leaders too condemned the CBI raids. "This is like a show of strength by the BJP government at the Centre ahead of new Mahagathbandhan government proving majority in the House," said JD (U) spokesperson Niraj Kumar.

State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal told mediapersons that "Chief Minister Nitish Kumar himself had demanded a probe into the case and investigation is going on".

"The JD(U) leaders had provided papers to the investigating agencies on corruption charges against RJD leaders. In 2017, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had even sought an explanation from Tejashwi Yadav and when the law is taking its own course, there should not be politics on it," said senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi.

The CBI case is that when Lalu Yadav was Railway Minister in the UPA government, candidates got Railway jobs in exchange of land parcels.

I do whatever high command says: Gehlot

Interestingly, just when the Congress is about to announce its presidential poll schedule, all three members of the Gandhi family have gone abroad for Ms. Gandhi's health check-up and visit her ailing mother.

If Mr. Gehlot agrees to the elevation, it will also solve the party's leadership tussle in Rajasthan where election is due by the end of 2023. Former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, who has been aspiring to the top post could be brought in as Mr. Gehlot's replacement.

However, the Gandhis will have to tread this path carefully as they were blamed for the party's disastrous results in Punjab earlier this year after they had unseated Captain Amarinder Singh (retd.) a few months before the election. And Mr. Gehlot, on more than one occasion, has shown his reluctance to accept the top party post.

"I have been saying this repeatedly that the Congress will revive only if Rahul Gandhi *ji* takes over," Mr. Gehlot told reporters on Tuesday after his meeting with Ms. Gandhi in Delhi.

SC Bench to revisit 2013 verdict on poll promises

"I will constitute a three-judge Bench for this," Chief Justice Ramana said. During the hearing, Mr. Datar referred to Section 123 of the Act which deals with 'corrupt practices'.

The provision says it is 'bribery' and thus deemed a corrupt practice if any gift, offer or promise of gratification is made to voters directly or indirectly by a candidate or his agent or any other person acting on their consent.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh also urged the court to re-examine the Balaji judgment, saying it was wrong in several aspects. The judgment by a Bench of Justices P. Sathasivam and Ranjan Gogoi (both retired) had clearly drawn a distinction between an individual candidate put up by a political party and the political party itself.

"The provisions of the Act prohibit an individual candidate from resorting to promises, which constitute a corrupt practice within the meaning of Section 123 of the RP Act. The provisions of the Act place no fetter on the power of the political parties to make promises in the election manifesto," the court had held in July 2013.

Adani bid for NDTV to stifle media: Congress

"What's mysterious is how a loan given by one of the *Humare Do* is used as a weapon by the other member of the duo to trigger the hostile takeover of the television network. Ironical, that an outfit called *Vishvapradhan* is closely involved!" Mr. Ramesh added in another tweet.

Independent member of the Rajya Sabha Kapil Sibal tweeted: "NDTV: Adani to acquire 29%. Makes open offer for 26%. Almost the last bastion of Independent journalism being taken over by industry. We should be worried!"

On Tuesday, while the Adani group claimed that it had acquired a 29.18% stake in NDTV through an indirect acquisition and would make an open offer to buy out a further 26% stake, promoters of NDTV, one of the nation's most popular news channels, said they were completely unaware of the takeover until Tuesday and that it was done without their consent or discussion.

'Why can't govt. call all-party meet on freebies?'

SC poser comes amid its proposal to form a 'broad-based and neutral committee of experts' to study the issue

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre why it cannot call an all-party meeting to discuss ways to prevent "irrational freebies" from destroying the national economy and to draw a line between State largesse and welfare schemes.

The court's question came amid its proposal to form a "broad-based and neutral committee of experts" to study the problem of free gifts.

"Until and unless there is a process or vision among political parties that 'we have to stop somewhere', these types of freebies, which will destroy the economy, will continue. Nothing can happen by way of legislation, by way of Model Code of Conduct, by way of our orders. It will be unmanageable... If we pass an order, a mandamus, that from tomorrow onwards no political party should make these promises, nobody will care... So, that is why there must be a debate. The issue is serious, no doubt about it. Why can't the Government of India call for a meeting of all political parties and ask for their views on how to go ahead?" Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, asked.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, demurred, saying the court should take the lead and form an expert committee.

A "comprehensive" report from the committee would help in resolving the problem of freebies.

"All the political parties are here before the highest court, claiming that this is their fundamental right. So there is no question of starting a debate by the Government of India. We have political parties whose only wish is to distribute freebies to get elected... That is not the way forward," Mr. Mehta submitted.

To buttress his point, Mr. Mehta read back to the court its own earlier order, proposing an expert committee comprising representatives of the government, the Opposition and other bodies like the Finance Commission, etc., to study the problem of freebies.

> **Until and unless there is a process or vision among political parties that we have to stop somewhere, these types of freebies, which will destroy the economy, will continue**
> N.V. RAMANA
> Chief Justice of India

"But if you want a committee of representatives of the government, Opposition, etc., the biggest problem is who will head such a committee..." the Chief Justice asked.

'Freebies party-centric'

The court indicated that the issue of freebies was party-centric.

"It is political parties who make these promises. They contest elections... Individuals do not have much importance in the present system. It is the political party, their philosophy and manifesto which are important... that is how our democracy is... Suppose I contest, I will not get 10 votes... Ultimately, all political parties, whether in power or not, have to face the reality. That is, a party in opposition can come to power tomorrow and will have to manage the affairs of the State. The government in power has to govern and also balance the economy," Chief Justice Ramana explained.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, the *amicus curiae*, urged the court to not get into a "political quagmire". He said instead of the court getting into a morass, the problem could be resolved with the aid of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003, which makes the Centre responsible for ensuring inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability.

But Mr. Mehta said Mr. Sibal was in fact urging the court to let things be the way they were. "People are lured by these promises. The voter is deprived of a considered decision on whom to vote for... A committee of eminent people can be formed to suggest a way forward... It can give a report in two months," he pressed.

"If that is the case, why can't the Government of India constitute a committee to study the impact of freebies on the economy?" Chief Justice Ramana asked.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi said it was very ill on the part of the government to say "I will not take any action on my own". "Why can't the Centre do something without depending on the court?" the senior lawyer for the Aam Aadmi Party asked.

Expert committee

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, for petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, suggested former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha could head the expert committee.

Mr. Mehta suggested a retired Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

"No judge will preside over this... Persons who retire or who are retired have no value in this country," Chief Justice Ramana said.

Senior advocate Arvind P. Datar said there was clear evidence from past elections that freebies could influence the outcome of elections.

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan said three types of freebies were dangerous. Those which are discriminatory in nature, those which are against public policy and those rolled out immediately, say six months, before elections and disturb the level playing field.

"Mr. Bhushan says promises should not be made six months before elections. Then parties will make it nine months before polls. So, should there be a standstill in governance in view of an impending election? Today, people are not so gullible with literacy anywhere between 60% to 90%...Let us not assume that everybody can fool the public every time," Mr. Singhvi, the AAP counsel, said.

On the draw

Bilkis Bano case: SC to hear petition today

Plea challenges remission of convicts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A special three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana is hearing on Thursday a petition challenging the remission granted by the State of Gujarat to 11 life convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case. The CJI on Tuesday agreed to list the petition urgently when it was mentioned in court for early hearing by advocate Aparna Bhat. "We are challenging the remission. Fourteen people were killed and a pregnant woman was assaulted," senior advocate Kapil Sibal said.

The Bench would also have Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath.

The Gujarat government had relied on its remission policy of 1992 and not the current policy of 2014.

In May 2022, the apex court had directed the Gujarat government to consider the application of one of the convicts, Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah, alias Lala Vakil, for premature release in terms of its remission policy of July 9, 1992.

The Supreme Court had followed its judgment in *State of Haryana versus Jagdish* which held that the policy applicable at the time of conviction must be considered for deciding an application of premature release.

In its May 13 judgment, a Bench led by Justice Rastogi had concluded that Gujarat was the "appropriate government" under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to decide the remission of the convicts in the case.

'Two oligarchs taking over entire media'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Wednesday said it was shocked at news reports of "NDTV is being bought up by the Adani Group". "It is evident that the two oligarchs of the Indian economy have decided to parcel out the entire media industry between them, leaving no room for independent players," said a DUJ statement.

The DUJ said: "Cross-media holdings and media monopolies ensure that the views of the government and big business are replicated without deviation across channels."

Modi may attend state funeral of Abe

Japanese media report on the planned visit, India yet to make announcement

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Japan to participate in the state funeral of slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on September 27, *Kyodo News* reported from Tokyo. The Indian side is yet to announce the visit and a senior official in response to the news said, the visit is "possible", indicating the details are yet to be worked out.

Mr. Modi will begin the month of September by hosting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, which is being planned as a significant regional interaction.

Narendra Modi with late Shinzo Abe. • PTI

A visit to Tokyo for the planned 'state' funeral for Shinzo Abe is therefore a possibility if Mr. Modi flies (on the way back to Delhi) to the Japanese capital from the United States after completing engagements in New York. An official emphasised, "no final decision" has been taken about the trip to Tokyo for the ceremony.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had announced on July 14 the plan for holding a state funeral for Abe.

However, the plan has been at the centre of a protracted public discourse as a state funeral is a rare event in Japan as it amounts to the Japanese state commemorating political figures who are known to evoke mixed emotional response among the electorate.

That apart, the Government of Japan which is based on strict separation of the religious elements and the political structure, usually opposes state funerals as such ceremonies are expected to be religious in nature that may undermine the separation of the religious and the political elements.

The Abe family held a private Buddhist funeral ceremony for the slain leader on July 12 at the Zojoji Temple in Tokyo.

IN BRIEF

Mondal sent to judicial custody till September 7

KOLKATA

A Special CBI court on Wednesday rejected the bail petition of Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal arrested in a cattle smuggling scam and remanded him in judicial custody for to 14 days. The lawyers for Mr. Mondal sought bail on the grounds that he was not keeping well. They said that the agency has not found any evidence.

25 Constitution Bench cases to be listed soon

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday notified that 25 five-judge Constitution Bench cases will be listed from August 29, the first working day of Chief Justice of India-designate Justice U.U. Lalit as top judge. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana is retiring on August 26. Justice Lalit will be sworn in as the 49th CJI on August 27.

Unified ID cards for PM-JAY beneficiaries

NEW DELHI

To eliminate wide variance in the design and nomenclature of beneficiary cards across States, the Central government is planning a unified identity card for the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The National Health Authority is working on this step. "This will clear any confusion among beneficiaries and stakeholders like empanelled hospitals," said a senior Health Ministry official.

First time since 2019, Mirwaiz likely to deliver Friday sermon

Hurriyat leader has not been detained, L-G had told *BBC*

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A face-off is likely between the J&K administration and the management of the Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, as the Valley's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq decided to deliver a Friday sermon this week, for the first time since August 5, 2019.

Sources said the vehicles once blocking the gate of the Mirwaiz's residence in Srinagar's Nigeen area have been moved away and stationed at a distance.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha recently said "the Mirwaiz was a free man and should decide what to do". According to the Hurriyat, the Mirwaiz has been confined to his house and has not been allowed to meet anyone since August 5, 2019, when the Centre ended J&K's semi-autonomous status.

In an interview to the BBC in Srinagar, Mr. Sinha, however, said, "The Mirwaiz was not detained". "In the past, his father was assassinated unfortunately. We keep security around his house to protect him. He needs to decide what he wants to do. He is neither under house arrest nor detained," Mr. Sinha said. Immediately after the BBC interview, the Mirwaiz tried to come out and talk to the news channel "but was not allowed to step out of the house". Now, all eyes are on the upcoming Friday whether the administration will allow the Mirwaiz to visit Jamia Masjid or not.

'Arrested Pak. militant was sent to hit forward posts'

Army says it foiled two infiltration bids

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

A captured Pakistani militant was tasked with attacking Indian forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) by a Pakistani intelligence officer in Pir Panjal's Rajouri, the Army said on Wednesday as it foiled two infiltration bids and killed two infiltrators in the past 48 hours in Rajouri.

The Pakistani terrorist, identified as Tabarak Hussain, a resident of Sabzkot village, Kotli of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was arrested on August 21 in Jhangar sector of Naushera.

The alert troops spotted the movement of two or three terrorists on their side of the LoC.

One terrorist came close to the Indian post and tried cutting the fence, when he was challenged by the alert sentries. The terrorist tried to flee but was brought down by effective fire, incapacitating him. Two terrorists, who were hiding behind, fled the area by taking cover in the dense jungle and broken ground. The injured Pakistani terrorist was captured alive.

Centre voices support for Russia-Ukraine talks

Rajnath also calls for boosting ties with SCO member states

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vital meet: Rajnath Singh during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting in Tashkent. • PTI

Expressing India's concern on the situation in Ukraine, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday that New Delhi supports talks between Russia and Ukraine to resolve the crisis.

Wednesday marks six months of the launch of the Russian offensive and the war in Ukraine.

Addressing the annual SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Tashkent, he called for strengthening of ties with the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) bilaterally and within the framework of the organisation.

"India is concerned about the humanitarian crisis in and around Ukraine. We have extended our support to the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, UN agencies and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide humanitarian assistance," he said.

During the exchange of pleasantries with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu in the morning, Mr. Singh conveyed his "deep appreciation and thanks" for arresting in Moscow a terrorist who was planning attacks in India, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Calling on the SCO to unitedly fight against terrorism, Mr. Singh stressed that terrorism in any form, including cross-border terrorism, committed by anyone and for whatever purpose, is a crime against humanity.

On Afghanistan, Mr. Singh voiced India's full support to a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while emphasising the need to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs.

Highlighting India's age-old ties with SCO countries, he asserted that the member states of the organisation are common stakeholders in the progress and prosperity of the region. He also invited all SCO member states to visit India next year.

Treatment is a service, wellness a charity: PM

Inaugurating Amrita Hospital in Faridabad, he lauds spiritual leaders' role in easing vaccine hesitancy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"India is a nation where treatment is a service, wellness is charity, where health and spirituality are related to each other," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi after inaugurating the state-of-the-art Amrita Hospital in Faridabad on Wednesday.

Speaking a few lines in Malayalam, Mr. Modi called Mata Amritanandamayi an example of love, compassion, service and sacrifice.

"She is the vehicle of spiritual traditions of India and the message of her life is what the Maha Upanishad speaks about," the Prime Minister said.

Calling the newly inaugurated hospital a blend of modernity and spirituality which will become a medium for accessible and affordable treatment for needy patients, he said that true development is one that reaches everyone.

Mr. Modi further said services such as education and medicine offered by religious and social institutions are a sort of "public-private partnership but I also see it as *Paraspar Prayas*".

Grand launch: Narendra Modi with Mata Amritanandamayi at the inauguration of Amrita Hospital in Faridabad. • PTI

"When we give up the mindset of slavery, the direction of our actions also changes," he reiterated.

He also said that India did not face the kind of COVID-vaccine hesitancy seen in other countries because of the message from spiritual leaders. Also present at the inauguration of the super-specialty hospital, which will be equipped with 2,600 beds, were Governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatreya, Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Mata Amritanandamayi and other dignitaries. The hospital has been constructed at an estimated cost of around ₹6,000 crore.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mata Amritanandamayi called upon medical staff to serve and treat patients using modern technology and also with a deep, firm faith in the divine.

"Today is a day of dedication and I pray for good health for all. May we all live with a sense of service and love for humanity," she said.

Amrit kaal in country

Meanwhile, Mr. Modi in his speech said that the country is now entering the *Amrit Kaal* [the 25-year lead-up to India@100] and collective aspirations and resolutions are taking shape.

Dwelling on the great tradition of service and medicine of India, the Prime Minister said that in India, health and spirituality are related to each other.

"We have medical science as a Veda. We have also given the name of Ayurveda to our medical science. India never allowed its spiritual and service legacy to go into oblivion even during the difficult period of slavery for centuries," Mr. Modi said.

In his speech, he also spoke about the made-in-India COVID vaccine and the propaganda that was unleashed by some people.

"As a result, many kinds of rumours started spreading in society. But when the religious leaders and the spiritual teachers of the society came together and asked the people not to pay heed to the rumours, the effect was immediate. India did not face the kind of vaccine hesitancy as seen in other countries."

Recalling his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister said that he has placed a vision of the five vows of *Amrit Kaal* in front of the country and one of these five vows (*Pran*) is the complete renunciation of the mentality of slavery.

He remarked that it is also being discussed a lot in the country at this time.

This change, he continued, is visible in the healthcare system of the country as there is growing faith in the traditional knowledge of the country. Yoga has global acceptance today and the world will celebrate International Millet Year next year, he said.

Shergill quits Cong., alleges sycophancy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Alleging that sycophancy is "eating into the Congress organisation like termites", party spokesperson and one of the young faces of the Congress, Jaiveer Shergill, quit the party on Wednesday.

In a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Shergill said that he was resigning from post of the national spokesperson and claimed, "the primary reason being that the ideology and the vision of the current decision makers of the Indian National Congress is no longer in sync with the aspirations of the youth and modern India".

"Furthermore, it pains me to say that decision making is no longer for the interest of the public and the country, rather it is influenced by the self-serving interests of individuals indulging in sycophancy and consistently ignoring ground reality. This is something I cannot morally accept or continue to work with," he added while thanking the party for all the opportunities.

Speaking with *The Hindu*, Mr. Shergill claimed that for over a year, he had been consistently asking for time from Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra but never managed to get an appointment.

"My assessment is that maybe I don't carry favour with a coterie and cabal that now controls access to the top leaders," he said.

SC to hear Kappan's bail plea tomorrow

Kerala journalist spent two years in jail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court listed for urgent hearing on Friday a plea for bail by Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan, who said he had spent two years behind bars on "trumped-up charges" merely due to his zest to discharge his professional duty to report on the alleged rape and murder of a Dalit girl at Hathras in Uttar Pradesh in 2020.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Wednesday, advocates Haris Beeran and Pallavi Prathap, for Mr. Kappan, orally mentioned the case for early listing.

"We deem appropriate to direct the Registry to list the matter on Friday, August 26, before an appropriate Bench," the court ordered. Mr. Kappan has appealed against an Allahabad High Court decision to refuse him bail. "As a result of the rejection of the application [by the High Court], the petitioner, a journalist of 12 years' experience, who has also served as the secretary of the Delhi chapter of the Kerala Union of Working Journalists, continues to be incarcerated," the petition said. Mr. Kappan is booked under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He was picked up while *en route* to Hathras on October 5, 2020.

It said the High Court had "egregiously failed to discharge its bounden duty" to examine the entire material on record to decide whether or not a *prima facie* case had been made out against the accused.

Mr. Kappan had been granted bail twice by the Supreme Court for visiting his ailing mother and for being treated for COVID-19. On both times, there had not been any allegations that he tried to influence witnesses or tamper with evidence.

Court reserves order in Gyanvapi suit

The masjid panel had challenged the maintainability of the Hindu plaintiffs' suit

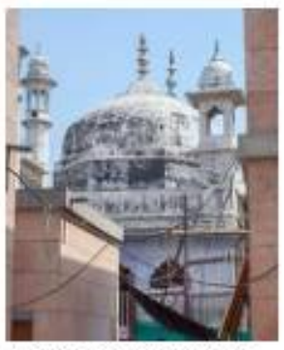
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Varanasi district court on Wednesday reserved its order on the maintainability of a civil suit filed by the Hindu plaintiffs in the Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute as the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee concluded its arguments against the points raised by the plaintiffs.

District judge A.K. Vishvesha posted the matter for the next hearing on September 12, when the court is expected to pronounce its order on whether the suit seeking the right to pray inside the Gyanvapi mosque premises is at all maintainable, said advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, part of the legal team arguing for the Hindu plaintiffs.

The masjid panel had challenged the maintainability of the suit soon after it was filed.

The suit, currently being heard by the district court, is the one filed by Rakhi Singh and four other Hindu women, seeking the right to pray at a temple of Maa Shringar Gauri which they say is located inside the mosque.



A Varanasi district court is expected to pronounce the verdict on September 12.

Arguing that the suit is not maintainable, the masjid panel submitted before the court that special laws such as the Wakf Act and the Places of Worship Act, 1991 specifically bar such suits and thus it should not be tried.

However, opposing these submissions, Mr. Jain and his team, for the plaintiffs, argued that these laws do not bar their suit.

The question here was to establish the religious character of the premises as of August 15, 1947, Mr. Jain added, arguing that their suit must be tried so that they can make the case that the religious character of the premises at the time was Hindu.

Following this, the masjid panel began their submissions in rebuttal, during which they reiterated points made earlier and insisted that the mosque was a Wakf property.

Video survey

The district court in Varanasi had been assigned to hear the suit by the Supreme Court after a civil court had ordered the mosque premises to be sealed, and the masjid panel had gone to the top court against this order.

The civil court had while hearing the suit in May also ordered a video survey of the mosque premises, the contents of which had been leaked in the public domain in violation of multiple court orders.

Based on these leaks, the Hindu plaintiffs had claimed the discovery of a "*shivling*" inside the mosque, with the masjid panel insisting that the structure in question was part of the *wuzu khana*'s fountain.

After the district court took up the case, it had decided to first hear the application challenging the maintainability of the suit under Order 7, Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

"Now, future proceedings will depend on what the court decides about the maintainability. If the suit is found maintainable, then the court will take up the video survey of the mosque and the issues surrounding it," advocate Raees Ahmed, part of the masjid panel's legal team, said.

The plaintiffs as well as the defendants in the suit have also filed their respective objections to the video survey report as directed by the court.

BJP made cash offer, say AAP MLAs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A special session of the Delhi Assembly has been called on Friday amid allegations by the AAP that the BJP was attempting to topple the Delhi government by trying to lure its MLAs with money.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Somnath Bharti, Sanjeev Jha, Kuldeep Kumar and Ajay Dutt, AAP MLAs, alleged that a sum of ₹20 crore was offered to them to join the BJP, besides a bonus offering of ₹5 crore if they led more MLAs into switching camps.

The MLAs did not reveal the names of those who had approached them.

"We want to assure the people that the AAP government in Delhi is stable," AAP leader and MP Sanjay Singh said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra asked why the AAP was "not revealing the names" of the individuals who approached them.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு
மயிலாடுதுறை நகராட்சி
ந.க.எண்: 4812/2018/இ1 ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி அறிவிப்பு நாள்: 23.08.2022

உட்கட்டமைப்பு மற்றும் வளர்ச்சி (I&A Fund) திட்டத்தின்கீழ் மயிலாடுதுறை நகராட்சியில் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி 09.09.2022 அன்று மாலை 3.00 மணிக்குள் மின்னணு முறையில் (E-Tendering) பட்டியல் வரவேற்கப்படுகிறது. மேலும், மாநிலத்தை ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி பெறுவதற்கான http://tntenders.gov.in இணையதளங்களில் முறையாக 09.09.2022 அன்று மாலை 3.00 மணிவரை பதிவிறக்கம் செய்துகொள்ளலாம். இ-டெண்டரில் முறையில் இணையதளத்தில் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி அறிவிப்புகள் பதிவேற்றம் செய்யப்பட்ட தகவல்கள் மற்றும் அதற்கு பிறகான தொலைக்காட்சி விளம்பரங்கள் செய்யப்பட்டவையாகும். ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி படிவங்கள் 09.09.2022 அன்று மாலை 3.00 மணிவரை வழங்கப்படும். ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி படிவங்கள் மற்றும் அதற்கு பிறகான தொலைக்காட்சி விளம்பரங்கள் செய்யப்பட்டவையாகும். ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி படிவங்கள் 09.09.2022 அன்று மாலை 3.00 மணிவரைக்கும் வழங்கப்படும் ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி முன்னிலையில் வரவேற்கப்படும். எதிர்வரும் வருங்காலம் அனைவரும் நிலம் அதன் விரிவுரை நிலைய அதிகாரிகளுடன் வரவேற்கப்படும் நிலையில் நாளை நடைபெறும் நிலையில் நாளை நடைபெறும் நிலையில் நாளை நடைபெற

SC Bench to hear Pegasus case today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana is scheduled on Thursday to hear the Pegasus snooping case in which a technical panel was formed to inquire into reports that the government used the Israeli military-grade malware to spy on journalists, parliamentarians, prominent citizens and even court staff.

Chief Justice Ramana, flanked by Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, will be hearing the case amid certain media reports that the panel overseen by retired Supreme Court judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran, has filed its final report.

The Bench last assembled on May 20 to peruse an interim report filed by the committee in which it said that it had developed its own protocol and software to test the devices for malware. The interim report had sought an extension of time till June 20, 2022 to complete the entire exercise and file a comprehensive report before the court.

Regional language important in early learning: UGC Chairman

Panel aims to bring out 1,500 books in regional languages in the next one year

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Early initiation into the mother tongue is important for a child's creative thinking, while English can be learnt at any time in life for use as a communication tool, according to University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar.

The teaching of regional languages, however, could not be done at the cost of English in a globalised world, he said.

"Suppose I give you a task and say you have to reach a destination, but you don't know how to reach there. I give you a cycle to reach the destination, but you don't know how to cycle. Now, you have to learn how to cycle as well as ask people for directions to reach the destination. On which will you focus? That is the dilemma a child faces. We want to remove that dilemma and let the child think naturally in the mother tongue, forget about English. You can learn it at any time," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu* in an interview.

> One of the challenges was our colonial mindset and there was a need to change our attitudes so that when someone asked a question in a class in a regional language they should not feel inferior
>
> M. JAGADESH KUMAR
> UGC Chairman

However, English could not be ignored either.

Global competency

"There is a misunderstanding that needs to be removed that when we talk of Indian languages, it is at the cost of English. Today, we are a globally connected community and if we want to communicate with the rest of the world, it is a practice we have to [continue] and our students need to be trained to become proficient in using English as a communication tool," he said.

But one of the challenges was "our colonial mindset" and there was a need to change our attitudes so that when someone asked a question in a class in a regional language, they should not feel inferior, he said.

The UGC was in talks with various regulatory bodies for promotion of vernacular languages and a committee had been formed under former Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde which would look into how institutions could provide legal education in local languages.

The All India Council of Technical Education too had introduced courses in regional languages in 10 colleges.

It was also working with the High-Powered Committee on Indian Language Development established by the Ministry of Education to identify experts as well as 10 to 12 disciplines so that books could either be translated or written afresh.

The UGC Chairman said that the regulatory body was aiming at preparing 1,500 books in regional languages in the next one year across different disciplines.

Mr. Kumar said that this would lead to two things – either institutes would adopt a regional language as a medium of instruction or it would serve as a learning aid for students in the English medium who may not be proficient in the language.

The National Education Policy, 2022 lays emphasis on promoting the mother tongue which should be a medium of instruction at least till Class 5 or 8 and after which it should be offered as a language.

SC asks Centre to expand food security coverage

Bench takes decadal population hike till 2021 into account

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to increase coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) so that "more and more needy persons and citizens get the benefit" under the 2013 law which entitles rural and urban poor to subsidised foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

The coverage under the NFSA is still decided by the population figures of the 2011 census.

In an eight-page order, a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V. Nagarathna ordered the Union government to redetermine the NFSA coverage in the States and Union Territories after considering the population increase between 2011 and 2021 so that benefits were not restricted to beneficiaries identified back in 2011.

Fundamental right

"The right to food is a fundamental right available under Article 21 of the Constitution," the Supreme Court noted. The Union, in its affidavit, had stated in court that the Act required coverage to be updated under the latest published census figures.

However, such coverage cannot be determined as the 2021 census has been postponed indefinitely and no date has been notified.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for petitioners Anjali Bhardwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar, had pointed out that due to the absence of the latest population figures, over 10 crore people were left outside the food security law's protective umbrella without even ration cards.

Mr. Bhushan had urged the court to direct the government to use the official population projections published by the Health Ministry to expand the coverage.

The court found the petitioners' concerns "genuine and justified".

e-Shram portal

In the order, the court directed the States which were not able to register unorganised workers, including migrant labourers, in the e-Shram portal to do so within six weeks.

The Union Labour Ministry has developed a National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal and the e-Shram portal for registration of labourers spread over 400 occupations including in constructions, agriculture, fishing, and dairy, those self-employed and even ASHA and anganwadi workers.

However, many States have achieved less than 50% registration, with Tamil Nadu being one of the lowest at only 34.84%.

Central teams in Chhattisgarh to probe MGNREGS works

Official says national-level monitors pointed out lapses

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Union Rural Development Ministry has sent teams to 15 districts of the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh to investigate the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the State.

Recently, the Ministry carried out a similar exercise in Telangana, where its inspection teams asked the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government to rectify lapses.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Rural Development Ministry Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha said, "The report by national-level monitors pointed out several lapses in Chhattisgarh, including in utilisation of machines, no utility of the infrastructure constructed under the scheme, poor maintenance of the job cards and so on. So we felt that there is need for more intensive investigation."

Asked if the lapses are on a scale similar to that in West Bengal, Mr. Sinha said that it would be unfair to compare one State with other.

Since January in West Bengal, the Centre has not been paying MGNREGS wages claiming that the State government has stopped social audits and rebranded a Central scheme as the State's own for political gain. Despite protests from the State government and the MGNREGS workers, the Centre remains unmoved. The Centre's dues, meanwhile, are piling up and currently it owes more than ₹7,000 crore to Bengal.

Making a living: Workers taking up MGNREGS work on a site in Chhattisgarh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Report on September 1

From Wednesday, the Central teams will spend three days in Chhattisgarh visiting four to six panchayats each in 15 districts of the State and will submit their report on September 1, following which the State will be asked to send its response.

In July, Central teams visited Telangana where the inspection teams pointed out that the State had been taking up non-permissible work such as constructing foodgrain drying platforms under the MGNREGS.

The State was also not complying with guidelines related to desliting of major irrigation works. Various projects were broken down into smaller segments, to avoid approval of the superior technical authority.

The team also pointed out various other procedural violations of the guidelines. Mr. Sinha said that so far, Telangana had not submitted a report on the lapses pointed out by the centre. Failure to comply with the guidelines could lead to withholding of funds as it happened in West Bengal's case.

'Wind project addition to peak by 2024'

After that year, fresh projects are likely to be wind-solar hybrids, says report

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Annual installation of new wind power projects in India will peak by 2024 and likely decline thereafter, according to a report released on Wednesday by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC+, a consulting firm that specialises in renewable energy.

As part of its transition away from fossil fuels, India has committed to sourcing half its electricity in 2030 from non-fossil fuel sources and installing 60 gigawatt (GW, or 1000 MW) of wind power by 2022.

So far, only 40 GW of wind power capacity has been established.

Wind industry installations have been slowing down in India since 2017. Only 1.45 GW of wind projects were installed in 2021 with many delayed due to the second wave of COVID-19 and supply chain-related disruptions.

Power point: India currently has 13.4 GW of prospective projects in wind energy. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

To compensate, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) granted a blanket timeline extension for seven-and-a-half months after the scheduled commissioning date (SCD) for projects with power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed before June 2021, which pushed the SCD of 0.7 GW projects to 2022.

The trigger for the slowdown, according to the report, was the advent of the auction regime in 2017 to award tenders. The new scheme led to large orders but highly competitive bids.

Subsequently, the market has concentrated wind projects around a few substations of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which were home to the strongest resource potential and lowest cost of land. This created bottlenecks and slowed down project activity and made it costlier than solar power.

After 2024, fresh projects are likely to be wind-solar hybrid projects (where both systems are installed on a piece of land to generate power through the day).

Fresh searches by ED in illegal mining case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday searched multiple locations in an alleged illegal mining case in Jharkhand and seized two AK-47 assault rifles from a person in Ranchi.

The assault rifles were found on the premises of one Prem Prakash, whose role is also being investigated by the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The searches were carried out at 17 locations in Jharkhand, Bihar, in and around Delhi and Tamil Nadu, based on the purported revelations made by Pankaj Mishra and one Bachhu Yadav.

Boeing pitches fighter plane for aircraft carriers

Will transfer technology if jet is chosen, it says

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Pitching its F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet fighter as the best solution for the Indian Navy to operate from its aircraft carriers, aircraft manufacturer Boeing on Wednesday announced a road map to significantly expand its investments in line with the 'Make in India' initiative and also to transfer advanced technologies to Indian industry if its jet is selected. The Navy is expected to choose between the F-18 and the French Rafale for procurement of around 26 jets in the next few months.

"As part of this effort, Boeing anticipates $3.6 billion in economic impact to the Indian aerospace and defence industry over the next 10 years, with the F/A-18 Super Hornet as India's next carrier-based fighter.

The economic impact would be over and above Boeing's current offset obligations and plans in the country," said Alain Garcia, vice-president, India Business Development, Boeing Defence, Space, Security and Global Services on Wednesday.

He noted that the F/A-18 E/F has been designed from its inception as a carrier-based fighter for high-stress operations, and the Block-III will bring advanced, next-generation capabilities that will help the Indian Navy meet emerging and future threats. "The particular threats the Indian Navy started looking at, guess who is also developing capabilities against those type of threats, the U.S. Navy... Its something the Indian Navy would benefit from," Mr. Garcia said.

Earlier this year, both the F/A-18 and the Rafale conducted demonstrations from the Shore Based Test Facility in Goa to showcase their compatibility with Indian carriers.

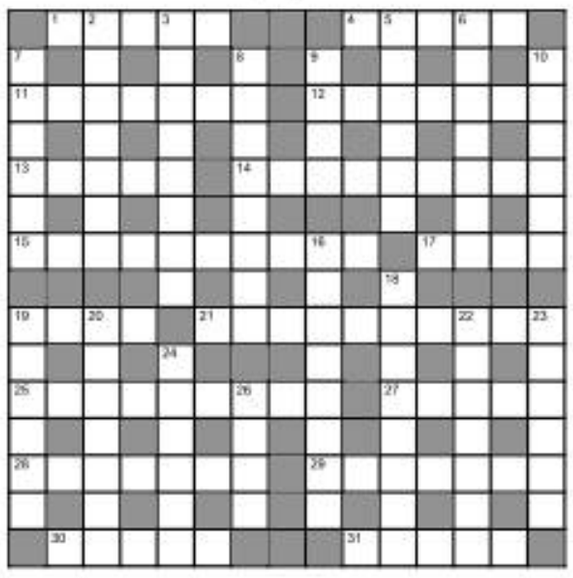
Stating that they exceeded all requirements put forth by the Navy, Mr. Garcia said post the demonstration they gave classified briefings on the capabilities of the aircraft. Based on the data collected, we submitted them to the Navy based on their request and also a paper on the F/A-18 indigenisation road map, he stated.

TH CROSSWORD + 13644

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Recruit scoundrel with stranger (5)
4 Old-timer's party at Japanese capital? (5)
11 Country assembling nuke outside borders of Russia and central China (7)
12 A bit of spite essentially, in slander (7)
13 Hint of trait in genes (5)
14 Scientist in confusion about object with velocity (9)
15 Ordinary man, made blunders saving home address on the net (6,4)
17 Rubbing Sita's palms (4)
19 Attire basically stylish and rather intricate (4)
21 Gangster and criminal gladly drink, working 24 hours (3,3,4)
25 "Bug journalists", said Spooner dear (9)
27 Cleric in Britain plugging American machine (5)
28 A thespian's debut is in that place! (7)
29 Bird flu shot makes boy right (7)
30 Starts to adjust seat and nicely adopts yoga pose (5)
31 English poet covers facial hair (5)

Down

2 Perhaps SMS friend in the morning (7)
3 Electronic sink repels mice producing plague, say (8)
5 Broadcast request to follow Big bird (6)
6 Sincere listener at shelter (7)
7 Fitted diamonds below luxurious hotel room (6)
8 Last minaret to be built near lake (8)
9 Oddly play and succeed without independent stake (4)
10 Incomplete joke about the first lady's perfect butler (6)
16 Ascertained mudras echo dancing with ecstasy (4,4)
18 Home Secretary transplants this tree there (8)
19 Fruit picked up from above, for instance (6)
20 Travellers intercepted by active thieves (7)
22 Spacecraft runs with piece checked by men (7)
23 Crocs from mountain swamped by methane, for one (6)
24 Not an old scientist (6)
26 Remove lid from drainage vessel (4)

SUDOKU

		9			8		3	6
				3				8
			5			4	2	
		2			9	7		
7		6				8		1
		8	6			3		
	8	4			7			
6				8				
2	1		9			6		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13643

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	1	9	5	3	8	4	7
4	8	3	2	1	7	5	6	9
5	9	7	6	4	8	2	1	3
8	4	9	7	3	5	1	2	6
7	5	6	4	2	1	3	9	8
3	1	2	8	9	6	7	5	4
9	6	8	5	7	2	4	3	1
2	3	4	1	8	9	6	7	5
1	7	5	3	6	4	9	8	2

FAITH

Rama's obedience

Conversations in the Ramayana are in the nature of dharma prachara – teaching of dharma, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. That was the aim of the Paramatma who incarnated as Rama. In fact, the whole of the Ramayana is concerned about dharma. Valmiki wanted the dharmic lessons in his kavya to reach everyone. So he taught his verses to Lava and Kusa, the sons of Rama, and through them he sought to take it to the entire world.

Some conversations before Rama leaves for the forest show how Rama Himself observed dharma. Dasaratha is unable to come to terms with Kaikeyi's wicked demands. But he does not know what else he can do in the face of her adamance. So he sends for Rama. Rama arrives and pays his respects to Dasaratha and Kaikeyi. Usually Dasaratha blesses his son, but today there is no such reaction from Dasaratha and Rama wonders why. He asks Kaikeyi if He has done something to incur His father's displeasure. Dasaratha is miserable and his sorrow shows on his face. So Rama asks Kaikeyi whether some health problem or some worry is tormenting him. Could it be that some bad news has come about His beloved brothers Bharata and Shatrughna?

Kaikeyi replies that Dasaratha has something to tell Rama, but is afraid to say it. Rama's reply to Kaikeyi shows the obedience He has towards His father. He says no matter what Dasaratha's command is, He (Rama) will not be offended. To Him the words of His father are of paramount importance. Rama assures Kaikeyi that He will keep any promise He makes. When Kaikeyi tells Him what Dasaratha's two orders are, Rama wishes the king had conveyed them to Him without hesitation. He will gladly give up everything, even His life for the sake of His father.

Thai court suspends PM Prayut pending decision on term limit

Oppn. says the PM, who took power in a 2014 coup, has reached his 8-year limit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

Thailand's constitutional court on Wednesday suspended Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha from office while it considers a legal challenge that could see him thrown out months before an expected general election.

The court agreed unanimously to hear a case brought by Opposition parties who argue Mr. Prayut has reached the end of his eight-year term limit as Prime Minister. Judges also agreed by five votes to four to suspend Mr. Prayut from office until the case is decided, the court said in a statement.

"The court considered the petition and supporting documents and deems the facts according to the request indicate reasonable grounds to suspect that there is a case as requested," the statement said. "Thus, a majority vote (five against four) for (Prayut) to be suspended as Prime Minister, effective August 24, 2022, until the court issues a verdict." Mr. Prayut, who will continue in his role as Defence Minister, has 15 days to respond to the case against him.

Unpopular figure: A man with a photo of Prayut Chan-O-Cha at a protest calling for his ouster in Bangkok on Tuesday. • AFP

Prawit Wongsuwan, one of Mr. Prayut's deputies and another former Army chief, will take over as caretaker Prime Minister while the case is decided. "The current Cabinet will continue its duty as normal because Gen. Prayut has not been ousted from his post, only suspended from duty," said Wissanu Krea-ngam, another Deputy Prime Minister.

Pita Limjaroenrat, leader of the Opposition Move Forward Party, which was among those that backed the petition, said the country needed fresh leadership. "It is like rowing a boat round the bathtub, going from Gen. Prayut to Gen. Prawit," Mr. Pita told reporters at parliament.

It is not the first time the Constitutional Court has played a role in Thai politics – it cancelled the results of general elections in 2006 and 2014. The kingdom's 2017 Constitution bars the Prime Minister from serving more than eight years in total, and Opposition parties say Mr. Prayut, who took power in a 2014 coup, has reached the limit.

Several hundred anti-government protesters rallied at Bangkok's Democracy Monument on Tuesday ahead of the court ruling and further demonstrations are planned. Anucha Burachaisri, a spokesman for the PM's office, urged "all groups" to "respect the results of the court's hearings and avoid criticising the performance of the court".

U.S. carries out airstrikes in eastern Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT

The U.S. military said on early Wednesday that it carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria that targeted areas used by militias backed by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and activist collective Deir Ezzor 24 said the airstrikes targeted the Ayash Camp run by the Fatimiyoun group made up of Shiite fighters from Afghanistan. The war monitor reported that at least six Syrian and foreign militants were killed in the airstrikes.

Deir Ez-Zor is a strategic province that borders Iraq and contains oil fields. Iran-backed militia groups and Syrian forces control the area and have often been the target of Israeli war planes in previous strikes.

In Iran, the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement condemning the American strike .

Rishi Sunak says he won't change U.K.'s Taiwan policy

The U.K. doesn't have formal diplomatic ties with the island

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Chancellor Rishi Sunak continued to battle it out for the leadership of the country and the Tory party at hustings in Birmingham on Tuesday night. While the focus was on domestic issues – rising inflation, taxes, public services and 'woke' culture, but foreign policy, including China, also featured briefly.

When asked what his response would be if China were to militarily threaten the self-ruling island of Taiwan, Mr. Sunak said he would not change the current Taiwan policy of the U.K. and that it was the right approach. The U.K. does not recognise Taiwan nor does it have formal diplomatic ties with it.

"The best thing we can do to prevent aggression against Taiwan from China is showing Russia that they will not be successful in Ukraine," Mr. Sunak said to the host, *Times Radio*'s John Pienaar. Asked how he would tackle "reliance" on China, he outlined his previously declared plan for relations with the country, calling China the biggest national security threat to the U.K.

Rishi Sunak

Partnering with allies

"We need to be robust in standing up for our values and our interests," he said, adding that it meant supporting people in Hong Kong. "It means a defence partnership with Australia and America and putting our aircraft carrier in the region to show that we care about our allies over there," Mr. Sunak said, presumably referring to AUKUS, a security arrangement between the three countries, announced in 2021, that seeks to equip Australia with nuclear fuelled submarines. The U.K.'s Carrier Strike Group deployed to the Indo Pacific last year as part of the country's 'Indo Pacific tilt' .

In a segment on her personality, Ms. Truss said she would set off the U.K.'s nuclear weapons, as Prime Minister, if the need arose, when asked by the host if she would push the button even if it meant "global annihilation".

"I think it's an important duty of the Prime Minister... I'm ready to do that," she said to applause and cheers from the audience.

U.S. to donate $3 billion in aid to Ukraine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden announced nearly $3 billion in military aid to Kyiv on Wednesday – the biggest U.S. package so far – to mark Ukraine's Independence day, six months after Russia invaded the country.

In a statement, Mr. Biden signalled the firmness of Washington's commitment to Ukraine's struggle, saying the $2.98 billion for arms and other equipment aimed "to ensure it can continue to defend itself over the long term."

The new funds will be for air defence systems, artillery and the much-in-demand ammunition for those systems, as well as radars and systems to counter Russian drones, Mr. Biden said.

Congratulating Ukraine on its independence, which was declared from the Soviet Union in 1991, Mr. Biden said the U.S. "is committed to supporting the people of Ukraine."

"Today is a resounding affirmation that Ukraine proudly remains – and will remain – a sovereign and independent nation."

Ukraine will fight until the end, vows Zelensky on I-Day

'We will not try to find an understanding with terrorists'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed on Wednesday that Ukraine will resist the Russian invasion "until the end" without "any concession or compromise", as the nation marks its Independence Day as well as the six-month anniversary of the start of the war.

"We don't care what army you have, we only care about our land," Mr. Zelensky said in a defiant morning video address. "We will fight for it until the end."

Referring to Russia – which launched a large-scale attack in the early hours of February 24 – he vowed Ukraine "will not try to find an understanding with terrorists. For us, Ukraine is the whole of Ukraine," he said. "All 25 regions, without any concession or compromise."

Gatherings have been banned in the capital Kyiv, where air raid sirens sounded in the morning, and Mr. Zelensky has urged citizens to be on guard against "Russian terror".

As the war entered its seventh month with no end in sight, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged unlimited assistance to Ukraine. "People are fighting with steel, with courage to defend their homes and their families, and to preserve their right to decide their own destiny in their own country," he said in a video message on Wednesday morning.

Resilient lot: Protesters during a demonstration in Skopje on Ukraine's Independence Day on Wednesday. • AFP

Johnson in Kyiv

Later in the day, he visited Kyiv, hailing the "strong will of Ukrainians to resist" Russia's invasion.

On Tuesday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned Russia against further attempts to annex Ukrainian territory in the same way it did the Crimean peninsula in 2014. Polish President Andrzej Duda also advised against any "appeasement", saying: "There is no return to business as usual in relations with Russia."

In a message on Wednesday, the authoritarian leader of Belarus – which offered its territory as a staging ground for Russia's invasion – congratulated Ukraine on its Independence Day.

University students in U.S. get relief

Biden's $10,000 aid for those struggling to pay loans

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced that most university graduates still trying to pay off student loans will each get $10,000 in relief, addressing a decades-old headache of massive educational debt across the country.

"In keeping with my campaign promise, my administration is announcing a plan to give working and middle-class families breathing room," Mr. Biden said in a statement issued less than three months before mid-term congressional elections, where the issue is seen as a vote winner for Democrats.

Falling short

The proposed debt relief falls far short of some Democrats' goal of securing complete forgiveness, but is opposed by Republicans who argue that shaving any amount from graduates' loans is unfair to those who have spent years saving to pay off their own debts.

U.S. colleges can often cost anywhere between $10,000 and $70,000 a year, leaving graduates with crushing debt as they enter the workforce. According to government estimates, the average debt for U.S. college students when they graduate is $25,000, a sum many spend years or even decades to pay back.

In total, some 45 million borrowers nationwide owe a collective $1.6 trillion, according to the White House.

Finland PM apologises for party photo

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COPENHAGEN

Finland's Prime Minister apologised after the publication of a photo that showed two women kissing and posing topless at the official summer residence of the country's leader. The photo came out after a video that showed Prime Minister Sanna Marin dancing with friends prompted a debate on whether the 36-year-old leader is entitled to party.

Dark times: A woman using her smartphone along an area in Chongqing normally submerged by the Yangtze River. • AP

Sleepless nights and power cuts in China

Record heatwave tears through region

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHONGQING

The lights are out along a once-bustling boulevard in a tourist spot at the epicentre of China's hottest summer on record, as people take refuge indoors from the searing heat engulfing the country's southwest.

The region is suffering through its longest continuous period of high temperatures since records began more than 60 years ago, with scientists warning such hot and dry spells will worsen as climate change warms the planet.

Temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius have forced authorities to impose power cuts to cope with a surge in demand for electricity partly driven by people cranking up the air conditioning.

On the streets of Chongqing, a city of 30 million, locals line up for mandatory COVID-19 tests in the wee hours of the morning, keen to avoid long queues in the scorching heat of the day.

At Chongqing's most popular tourist spot along the Jialing River, the lights have been cut to save power and the once-busy street has gone quiet.

Locals bathe in what water remains in the dried-out riverbed and pose for photos.

APPOINTMENT

भारतीय खाद्य निगम | FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
16-20, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi - 110001
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Food Corporation of India (FCI), one of the largest Public Sector Undertakings ensuring the food security of the Nation, invites only **ONLINE APPLICATIONS** for Zone-wise recruitment of **Management Trainees (Managers)** in its Depots and Offices spread all over the Country, from eligible candidates who fulfil the prescribed qualifications, age, experience etc.

1. Candidates may apply online through FCI website **https://fci.gov.in** under "Current Recruitment" head of Main page of the FCI website.
2. For details regarding eligibility criteria, reservation, age, etc. candidates may please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published in 'Employment News/Rozgar Samachar' dated 03.09.2022 or FCI website **https://fci.gov.in.**
3. Submission of Online Application Form will commence from **27.08.2022, at 10:00 Hrs.** The last date for Online Application is **26.09.2022 till 16:00 Hrs.**

राष्ट्र के खाद्य सुरक्षा प्रहरी

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF "PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC OFFICER"

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record for the post of Principal Scientific Officer on purely contractual basis.

For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in** and click on the link **"Job Opportunities-Academic-Faculty".**

The last date for submission of online applications is **September 13, 2022.**

Advt. No. 30/2022/IISER-T/Rect./24.08.2022 — Sd/- Registrar

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY
(Registered under Society Act XXI of 1860)

ONLINE SCREENING TEST (OST) FOR TEACHERS FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (APS) : NOV 2022

ON-LINE SCREENING TEST for selection of teachers in **PRT, TGT & PGT** categories will be held as per details below:-

Registration of Candidates	:	25 AUG 2022 to 05 OCT 2022
Admit Card Download	:	20 OCT 2022 onwards
Date of Exam	:	05 & 06 NOV 2022

For details of qualifications, registration and conduct, please log on to **website : www.awesindia.com**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Western Railway, Engineering Department, Jaipur (Rajasthan)-302017 invites e-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in website for supply of material as follows :- **Tender No. : TS225047, Item : Manufacture and supply of Glass filled Nylon-66 Insulting Liners to Drg. No. RDSO/T-3702, Quantity :** 1,67,697 Nos. , **Tender Value :** Rs. 19,65408.84, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 39,310.00 **Date fo closing :** 07.09.2022, **Tender No. : TS225030, Item : Manufacture and supply of Glued Insulated Rail Joints to Drg. No. RDSO/T-671, Quantity :** 2,723 Nos. , **Tender Value :** Rs. 11,61,09,591.36, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 20,00,000.00 **Date fo closing :** 12.09.2022, **Note : Item of above tender is reserved for procurement from RDSO approved vendors only.** 649-SN/22

Follow us at: NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Sri.Harsha.S S/o Srinivas**, residing at Kallahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, and Bangalore Rural District, to bring the notice of the general public that an old original sale deed of my client's land (in the name of previous land owner Anjinappa.R) bearing **Document No.1421O/2003-04**, stored in CD No.112 dated 06.12.2003, the same has registered in the office of sub- Registrar Krishnarajapura, Bangalore East Taluk, is lost.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

Schedule: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing **Sy.No.7/1**, situated at **Kodigehalli** Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban Dist. **measuring 0-25 Guntas** of land out of the total extent of 0-26 Guntas, and bounded on;

East by : Property of Sy.No.59/2,
West by : Property of Sy.No.6/2,
North by : Property of Sy.No.52/3 and,
South by : Property of Sy.No.7/2 & 7/4.

M. Mahesh Das, Advocate
Mythri Law Chambers,
294, Spoorthi Nilaya, Indoor Stadium Road, Shanthinagara South, Sulibele Main Road, Devanahalli Town-562110.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Ranjitha w/o Prajeesh** to bring the notice of the general public that the **original registered Deed of Partition** bearing **Doc.No.BNS-1-16871/2019-20 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.BNSD933, dated.23.12.2019,** registered in the office of the sub-registrar, Banaswadi, Bangalore, entered into between Mrs.Ranjitha w/o Late Prajeesh and Mrs.Sheena w/o Late Priyesh is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **western portion of site No.388,** property No.13, new Katha No.107-13, measuring 15 feet x 40 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq feet, situated at **Sathyanagara Slum, Nagayana Palya Village, Bayappanahalli Manavartha Kaval Dhakle, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** now comes under the limits of BBNP, Bangalore and bounded by:

East by : Remaining eastern portion of same site its belongs to Mrs.Sheena,
West by : Site No.359,
North by : Site No.334
South by : Road.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560 099
ಫೋನ್: 080–27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: TMCB/ENG/TR/02/2022–23 — ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.08.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KWರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 17 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 219.69 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಏಜೆಂದಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಏಕ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:(As per E-Procurement ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ). ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per E-Procurement). ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಆಧಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19 - ನಾಗರಿಕ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ. ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ಪೌರತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಿ-ಸೋಂಕಿನಿಂದ ದೂರವಿರಿ.

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ಅಂತರ ಕಾಯ್ದುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that Narendranath A. Residing at No.1925, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560 060 has Negotiated to Purchase the Schedule Detailed Property from Sri. Shankaranarayana and Sri Mahimappa. Both Sons of Late Chikkanarasimhaiah, Both Residents of Kenchanapura Village, Sulikere Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 060. Any Person/Having any objections may forward the same with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of this publication if there were to be no response to this Notice within the time stipulated, my Client will proceed with the transaction. Any Response after the expiry of the stipulated time, the same will be ignored

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.857, situated at 'B' Sector, 9th Block Survey Nos.123/1A and 121 of Kenchanapura Village, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 12.00 Meters and North to South: 18.00 Meters, totally Measuring 216.00 Square Meters and Bounded on the East By: Site No.856. West By: Site No.858, North By: Road and South By: Site No.870

Sd/-
S.M. Athar Rafai, Advocate,
No.65, 13th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011
080-26536651, 9342888390

Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Corrigendum Notice No.: 1/2022-23 — Date: 22.08.2022
Reference: Tender Notice No.: 17/2022-23 — Date: 12.08.2022

In the Tender Notice of above Reference, Tender was invited through e-proc from eligible contractors for works coming in the limits of Chikkamagaluru Division. Due to Technical Reasons date for submission of Tender for works of Sl No. 17 to Sl. No.22 has been Re fixed as below.

Sl.	Details	Date as per Tender Notice	Revised Date
1	Date for submission of Tender in e-proc	Within 4.00 PM on 25.08.2022	Within 4.00 PM on 05.09.2022
2	Date of opening Technical Bid	26.08.2022 after 4.15 PM	06.09.2022 after 4.15 PM

Otherwise there will be no change

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/Corr/No.123/mca/22-23/812

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Division,
Tumakur - 572101

No.: KST/EE/TK/JE/361/2022-23 — Date: 23.08.2022

E-Procurement Tender Notification - 05,06,07,08/2022-23

Tenders are invited in E-procurement mode from registered KPWD / CPWD / MES Contractors for the following work. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded from **26.08.2022** free of cost from the e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (in Lakhs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)	Last date for submission of tenders
1	Construction of Bus Depot with subworks at Molakalmuru (Call-2) (Chitradurga Dist.).	708.94	10,63,500/-	15.09.2022
2	Construction of Bus Depot with subworks at Chikkanayakanahalli.	531.65	7,97,500/-	15.09.2022
3	Construction of Bus Station at Molakalmuru.	446.42	6,70,000/-	15.09.2022
4	Renovation of Old Toilet Block at Bus Station Chitradurga.	8.90	22,300/-	08.09.2022

More details can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, Tumakur Bus Stop, Tumakur during working hours on all working days.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer
KSRTC, CE Division, Tumakuru

DIPR/CP/LC/1941/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

MARKET WATCH

	24-08-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,085	0.09
US Dollar	79.86	-0.03
Gold	51,909	0.39
Brent oil	99.44	0.05

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	836.30	3.80
Apollo Hosp	4210.75	139.80
Asian Paints	3378.85	22.25
Axis Bank	750.15	3.10
Bajaj Auto	4065.75	1.30
Bajaj Finserv	16333.85	29.95
Bajaj Finance	7176.90	-30.80
Bharti Airtel	738.75	1.15
BPCL	329.55	-4.15
Britannia Ind	3659.15	-19.55
Cipla	1037.35	-3.30
Coal India	223.65	0.80
Divis Lab	3496.65	-35.65
Dr Reddys Lab	4218.05	-7.10
Eicher Motors	3450.70	-14.05
Grasim Ind	1612.25	16.80
HCL Tech	949.15	2.25
HDFC	2438.50	17.75
HDFC Bank	1472.85	7.05
HDFC Life	566.65	0.80
Hero MotoCorp	2806.35	2.95
Hindalco	428.85	0.95
Hind Unilever	2588.25	-4.50
ICICI Bank	873.30	9.40
Indusind Bank	1101.90	10.85
Infosys	1537.50	-4.90
ITC	314.10	-1.80
JSW Steel	651.50	-1.35
Kotak Bank	1867.60	11.85
L&T	1893.35	16.30
M&M	1268.30	-4.80
Maruti Suzuki	8704.00	-16.50
Nestle India Ltd.	19671.05	45.40
NTPC	160.80	2.15
ONGC	136.00	2.25
PowerGrid Corp	229.45	1.90
Reliance Ind	2639.75	-7.05
SBI Life	1287.50	8.25
State Bank	519.30	-2.60
Shree Cement	21348.00	321.35
Sun Pharma	881.00	-7.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	805.70	-3.65
Tata Motors	463.20	2.75
Tata Steel	106.55	-1.05
TCS	3255.35	-29.25
Tech Mahindra	1070.95	5.05
Titan	2460.70	-19.50
UltraTech Cement	6508.35	12.95
UPL	759.75	0.20
Wipro	416.15	-0.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.61	79.93
Euro	78.98	79.30
British Pound	93.76	94.14
Japanese Yen (100)	58.20	58.44
Chinese Yuan	11.59	11.64
Swiss Franc	82.59	82.92
Singapore Dollar	57.03	57.27
Canadian Dollar	61.25	61.50
Malaysian Ringitt	17.73	17.83
Australian Dollar	54.89	55.16

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Royal Enfield unveils Hunter 350 at ₹1.5 lakh

CHENNAI

Royal Enfield has rolled out the Hunter 350 in Tamil Nadu at a starting price of ₹1,49,900 (ex-showroom TN). The motorcycle comes in two distinct editions – Retro Hunter and Metro Hunter – in eight colours. Bookings have opened, said chief commercial officer Yadvinder Singh Guleria.

Faulty airbags: Maruti recalls Dzire Tour S cars

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said it is recalling 166 Dzire Tour S units to replace faulty airbag component. The affected lot of the compact sedan was manufactured between August 6-16 this year, the country's largest carmaker said in a filing. "The recall is being undertaken to replace airbag control unit, free of cost, in these vehicles," the company added. PTI

GST kitty for top States could rise 20% in FY23, says Crisil

'Their overall revenues are expected to grow at a moderate 7%-9% this year'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's top 17 States' overall revenues were expected to grow at a moderate 7%-9% rate this year from about 25% in 2021-22, but their Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections would likely increase by about 20%, Crisil Ratings said on Wednesday.

Aggregate State GST collections, which had already rebounded by about 29% last year, would provide the biggest impetus to the revenue growth for these States which account for 85%-90% of aggregate Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

"We expect this momentum to sustain and collections to further increase about 20% this fiscal, supported by better compliance levels, higher inflationary environment and steady economic growth," said Anuj Seth, senior director at Crisil Ratings.

Welcome respite: With GST compensation payments ending, higher GST revenue will aid State finances. • NAGARA GOPAL

India's overall GST collections in the first four months of FY23 stood at ₹6.02 lakh crore, rising 34.8% from a year earlier. However, GST revenues had slipped below the ₹1-lakh crore mark in May and June 2021 amid the second COVID-19 wave.

With GST compensation payments, which accounted for 7%-9% of States' revenue in the past two years, coming to an end from July 1 this year, the uptick in GST revenues would help State finances, Crisil reckoned.

"Healthy tax buoyancy will support revenue growth, with GST collections and devolutions from the Centre – together comprising 43-45% of States' revenue – expected to show robust double-digit growth," it said.

India said to plan sops for rupee use in Russia trade

'Rebates on taxes, duties are likely'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India may give incentives to exporters settling trades using rupees to boost the acceptability of the currency and increase sales of goods to Russia, which has fallen because of western sanctions, according to government and industry sources.

RBI had earlier set up a mechanism to settle global trades using the rupee

The move is designed to boost Russian trade after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) put in place a mechanism for international trade settlements using the rupee last month. Indian companies are already swapping out the dollar and euro for Asian currencies to settle trades to avoid Western sanctions imposed on Russia after their invasion of Ukraine. The most likely incentive that will be granted would apply a current programme for trades using fully convertible currencies such as the dollar and the euro to the rupee, which is only partially convertible, according to the three sources.

Under the existing programme, Indian exporters receive rebates on a portion of the taxes and customs duties accumulated during the entire process of manufacturing a good. The new incentive would apply those rebates to goods exported using the rupee as a currency, the sources said.

NDTV surges to 14-year high on Adani bid

REUTERS
BENGALURU

NDTV Ltd. shares rose the maximum permitted 5% to a 14-year high on Wednesday, after business tycoon Gautam Adani's conglomerate moved to take an almost 30% stake in the media firm that could eventually put it in control.

Some analysts said investors were hoping the billionaire would invest in the struggling network.

"All TV channels have been suffering financially, and NDTV suffers a bit more," said N. Chandramouli, CEO of TRA Research. "The sentiment is that someone with money is coming in," he added.

NDTV stock rose to as much as 388.20 rupees, its highest since August 2008.

'No proof Indian firms are dodging sanctions'

U.S. official says firms honouring curbs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

There has been no evidence of Indian companies dodging sanctions on Russia, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo said on Wednesday.

"I see no evidence of Indian companies circumventing sanctions that have been placed on Russia," Mr. Adeyemo said, when asked whether the U.S. was concerned about Indian companies circumventing the sanctions.

"Companies around the world, including those in India, the U.S. and Europe are taking sanctions seriously and implementing them as well," he added, replying to questions after his address at the Society For Innovation and Entrepreneurship at IIT Bombay.

Wally Adeyemo

Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra had reportedly stated that a U.S. official had expressed concern over India being used to export fuel refined from Russian crude to the U.S. in violation of the sanctions.

Traders, banks said to cut ties with Rosneft affiliate Nayara

'Indian firm not facing sanctions, but Russian energy giant is'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Many global oil traders and banks have stopped dealing with Indian refiner Nayara Energy, a Rosneft affiliate, as they are worried about Western sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, two people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Nayara has not been sanctioned but sanctions are in place against Rosneft.

The Russian energy giant owns about 49% of Nayara – India's second-largest private refiner – while Kesani Enterprises, a consortium led by Trafigura Group and Russia's UCP Investment Group, holds 49.13%.

Most trading firms including Vitol and Glencore and producers in Canada, Latin America and Europe have declined to directly sell crude to Nayara, according to one of the people.

They said Nayara was now dependent on West Asian producers, Chinese traders, firms supplying Russian oil and local crude oil producers for its 4,00,000-barrels per day Vadinar refinery. "It is increasingly becoming difficult for the company," said one of the sources.

Firms that have declined to deal with Nayara include Phillips 66, Occidental Petroleum Corp., Cepsa , Equinor, Gunvor, Koch, Petrogal, Respsol, Shell, Suncor Energy, Ecopetrol and TotalEnergies, the second person said.

Banks and other firms that have refused to work on new hedging positions for Nayara include Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, JPMorgan, France's Engie as well as the core banking units of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group.

'Corporate bond market grew fourfold in a decade'

Primary market is key: RBI's Sankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Illiquidity in the secondary corporate debt market is a global issue and so focus should be on further deepening the primary market that had grown almost fourfold in a decade to ₹40 lakh crore, an RBI official said.

Addressing a Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry event on Wednesday, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar said concerted efforts by regulators and the government had seen corporate bond outstanding cross ₹40 lakh crore as of March 2022, from ₹10.4 lakh crore in March 2012.

During the same period, the secondary market volume spiked from ₹4.4 lakh crore to ₹14 lakh crore.

Only the U.S. has a 'very' liquid secondary corporate bond market and India has the second best, which is very low, the RBI official said.

The U.S. market is very deep because it is led by corporates and municipalities. But corporate bond market as a percentage of GDP is also the highest at 120% in the U.S., while in India, it is only 18%, Mr. Sankar said.

RBI lifts curbs on American Express cards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The RBI allowed American Express Banking Corp. to resume issue of new cards.

"In view of the satisfactory compliance demonstrated by American Express... with the RBI circular dated April 6, 2018, on storage of payment system data, the restrictions imposed vide order dated April 23, 2021, on onboarding of new domestic customers have been lifted with immediate effect," the RBI said.

Terming India a key strategic market, Amex India interim CEO Sanjay Khanna said the decision reflected the bank's investments.

Mercedes-Benz to unveil 3 luxury EVs in 4 months

Targets 25% of India sales from EVs

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Mercedes-Benz India said it aims to have 25% of total sales in the country from electric vehicles (EVs) in five years. As part of this strategy, the company announced the introduction of three new EV models by the end of this calendar year.

On Wednesday, it introduced the top-end all-electric luxury saloon Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+ starting from ₹2.45 crore (all India ex-showroom).

From next month, the company would start assembling the EQS 580 locally. Towards the end of 2022, the company would introduce the EQB, a 7-seater electric SUV, said MD & CEO Martin Schwenk.

Martin Schwenk

"In addition, we are creating the largest fast charging network across the country with 60 kW superfast DC chargers and 180 kW ultra-fast DC chargers," he added.

TVS Motor buys 48.27% in DriveX

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company Ltd. has picked up 48.27% stake in F1 driver Narain Karthikeyan's start-up 'DriveX', a pre-owned two-wheeler platform, for ₹85.41 crore.

The firm would buy the stake in NKars Mobility Millennial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. which operates under the brand name 'DriveX.'

DriveX posted turnover of ₹48 lakh in FY21 and ₹8.68 crore in FY22.

"With this investment, we are confident of delivering a pre-owned two-wheeler business that exceeds customer expectations," said DriveX CEO Narain Karthikeyan.

Repco Home Finance eyes 10-11% loan growth

Loan ticket size slowly improving: MD

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Repco Home Finance Ltd. (RHFL) is expecting a 10-11% growth in loan book in FY23 to reach ₹13,000 crore, said K. Swaminathan, MD & CEO.

"We maintain that we expect a growth of 10% to 11% in the loan book," he said during an analysts' call.

"We do not want to change as of now. We still maintain [that we want to achieve] a ₹13,000-crore loan book by FY23."

According to him, the company had reported a strong performance in Q1, after two subdued first-quarters in the last two years on account of COVID-19. Loan sanctions and disbursements grew by 236% and 168% respectively compared with Q1 of FY22.

Loan sanctions had risen by 6% sequentially to ₹692 crore and disbursements by 7% to ₹642 crore in the first quarter, he said.

Pointing out that the loan ticket size has improved from about ₹14.5 lakh to ₹16-18 lakh, he said, "this means, slowly we are moving up the ladder".

"Liquidity continues to remain comfortable as we have carried around ₹273 crore of cash and cash equivalents as of June. In addition, we have ₹1,900 crore of unutilised lines of credit."

ONGC reoffers KG gas, seeks $15/mmBtu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reintroduced a tender to sell gas from its KG fields at a higher price of $15 per mmBtu as it looks to capitalise on a surge in energy prices.

The firm sought bids for the sale of 0.75 million standard cubic metres per day of gas for one year from the KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) fields in the Bay of Bengal, as per the tender document. The firm asked users to quote a premium they are willing to pay over and above the reserve gas price of 14% of Brent crude price plus $1 per million British thermal units.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3 & 6 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
KSCA Maharaja Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7 p.m.
Ultimate Kho Kho: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7.30 & 8.45 p.m.
Champions League draw: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9.30 p.m. onwards

IN BRIEF

Thiem enters third round

WINSTON-SALEM

Dominic Thiem playing in his first tournament on American soil since winning the 2020 U.S. Open, defeated top seed Grigor Dimitrov in the second round of the Winston-Salem Open after Dimitrov, who was leading 6-0, 2-4, retired. AP

Maiden FIA ERC title for Team MRF

Efren and Sara clinch victory with two rounds to spare

MOTORSPORTS

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Team MRF Tyres' Efren Llarena and Sara Fernandez clinched the 2022 FIA European Rally Championship with two rounds to spare. It is the first FIA ERC title for MRF Tyres, having only joined the Championship in 2020.

Team MRF Tyres won the title after chief rival Simone Tempestini withdrew from the upcoming event this weekend – Barum Czech Rally Zlin – which ensured the lead would not be breached.

This victory comes close on the heels of the success that Team MRF Tyres has enjoyed with success in the Finnish Rally Championship and Italian Rally Championship in 2021.

Historic: Sara and Efren made Team MRF proud by winning the European Rally Championship. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The year 2022 has been equally rewarding for Team MRF Tyres with wins in the Azores Rallye, and podiums in Rally Islas Canarias and Liepaja Rally for Llarena and Fernández.

MRF Tyres Vice-Chairman & Managing Director Arun Mammen said, "It is a very happy and momentous occasion to capture this first European Rally Championship for us at MRF Tyres.

"I would like to congratulate Efren and Sara for achieving this feat, and our other drivers who have supported our team in achieving this."

Anupama wins silver; Keerthana claims bronze

WORLD JR. SNOOKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's Anupama Ramachandran and Keerthana Pandian won the silver and bronze respectively in the under-21 women's event of the IBSF World junior snooker in Bucharest.

Anupama lost to Thailand's Panchaya Channoi 1-4 in the summit clash on Tuesday while the 20-year-old Keerthana had earlier gone down 0-3 to Channoi.

SAI congratulated them for their achievements. "Congratulations Champs!! Well Done," SAI tweeted.

Last year, Anupama clinched the top spot in the women's (first leg) round-robin league of the GSC World snooker qualifiers.

On the podium: Keerthana, left, and Anupama. • COURTESY: IBSF

Hansini triumphs

Yashaswini, Suhana too bag titles

Impressive show: Hansini added u-15 bronze to her fourth u-13 WTT Contender title. • TWITTER/WTTGLOBAL

WTT CONTENDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Young Indian table tennis player Hansini Rajan won her fourth WTT Contender title in the under-13 category by beating Colombia's Mariana Roudriguez 11-7, 11-8, 11-7 at Cuenca, Ecuador.

Hansini also was the bronze medallist in the under-15 category.

India's Yashaswini Ghorpade beat Sally Moyland to win the crown in the under-19 category. Suhana Saini claimed the under-17 title, beating G. Takashui of Brazil.

Prannoy knocks out Momota, makes the last 16

Lakshya cruises but Srikanth exits; Chirag-Satwiksairaj combine stays on course; women's doubles pairs crash out

BWF WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO

H.S. Prannoy stunned second seed Kento Momota in straight games to record a sensational win while reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen also sailed into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the World Championships here on Wednesday. The two will clash in an all-Indian last 16 clash on Thursday.

Unseeded Prannoy rose above expectations to shut the door on crowd favourite and two-time champion Momota 21-17, 21-16 in a second round tie.

First success

Incidentally, it was Prannoy's first win over Momota in eight matches. In their previous clashes, the Indian had won only one game against his higher-rated Japanese rival.

Earlier in the day, Lakshya Sen sailed into the pre-quarterfinals with a 21-17, 21-10 win over Spain's Luis Penalver in 72 minutes.

However, last edition's runner-up, K. Srikanth, crashed out of after 18-21, 17-21 defeat to World No. 32 Zhao Jun Peng of China.

The eighth-seeded men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy thrashed Guatemala's Solis Jonathan and Anibal Marroquin 21-8, 21-10 to storm into the round of 16.

The other men's pair of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also moved into the pre-quarterfinals by upstaging eighth seeds and last edition's bronze medallists Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark 21-17, 21-16.

In women's doubles, all the Indian pairs crashed out in the round of 32.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy made a second round exit after being soundly beaten 21-15, 21-10 by top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan of China in 42 minutes.

Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh crashed out, going down to third seeds Lee So Hee and Shin Seung Chan of Korea 15-21, 7-21, while Malaysia's Thinaah Muralitharan and Pearly Tan beat Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand 21-8, 21-17.

Gritty show

Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam put up a fight against Korea's Kim So Yeong and Kong Yee Yong before going down 5-21, 21-18, 13-21.

The results (second round):

Men: Lakshya Sen bt Luis Penalver (Esp) 21-17, 21-10; Zhao Jun Peng (Chn) bt K. Srikanth 21-18, 21-17.

Doubles: Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bt Solis Jonathan & Anibal Marroquin (Gua) 21-8, 21-10; M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Kim Astrup & Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Den) 21-17, 21-16.

Women: Doubles: Chen Qing Chen & Jia Yi Fan (Chn) bt Ashwini Ponnappa & N. Sikki Reddy 21-15, 21-10; Lee So Hee & Shin Seung Chan (Kor) 21-15, 21-7; Thinaah Muralitharan & Pearly Tan (Mas) Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-8, 21-17; Kim So Yeong & Kong Yee Yong (Kor) bt Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam 21-5, 18-21, 13-21.

Finally... Prannoy cracked the Momota puzzle in the eighth encounter between the two. • BADMINTONPHOTO

Laxman takes charge as interim head coach

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

V.V.S. Laxman joined India's squad on Wednesday as the interim head coach for the Asia Cup starting in the United Arab Emirates on Aug. 27. Laxman has been appointed since Rahul Dravid, the head coach, could not board the flight to the Emirates on Tuesday after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

"Laxman, who travelled with the Indian team that played the ODI series in Zimbabwe, will oversee the team's preparation in the absence of Rahul Dravid who tested positive for COVID-19 before the team's departure to the UAE," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Dravid will join the team once he tests negative and is cleared by the BCCI medical team."

The earliest Dravid can join the squad will be on Sept. 1. But, with India set to open its campaign with the high-profile encounter against Pakistan on Sunday, the BCCI hierarchy deputed Laxman to supervise the squad's training.

Laxman. • REUTERS

Arrive in Dubai

Laxman, along with vice-captain K.L. Rahul, Deepak Hooda and Avesh Khan, arrived in Dubai from Harare on Wednesday ahead of the team's first practice session.

IN BRIEF

Gill to turn out for Glamorgan

SWANSEA (UK)

Shubman Gill will represent Glamorgan for the remainder of the English county season, joining a host of Indian players who have been plying their trade in the United Kingdom. Gill will be the third Indian to don the Glamorgan colours after Ravi Shatsri (1987-1991) and Sourav Ganguly (2005). PTI

Ricciardo to leave McLaren a year early

PARIS

Daniel Ricciardo will leave McLaren at the end of the season, a year early than his contract runs to, after both parties mutually agreed to it, the Formula One outfit announced on Wednesday. Ricciardo won a race for McLaren last year, at the Italian Grand Prix. AFP

Pregnant Kerber withdraws from US Open

PARIS

Former women's World No. 1 Angelique Kerber announced on Wednesday that she is pregnant and has withdrawn from next week's US Open, joking "two against one just isn't a fair competition."
The 34-year-old German added that Flushing Meadow holds great memories for her. She won the title there in 2016 and, as a result, became World No. 1. AFP

Justice Chandrachud to hear BCCI plea

The case is significant in deciding tenures of Ganguly, Shah

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, on Wednesday, referred a plea by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to amend its Constitution to another Bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

When the case came up for hearing, Chief Justice Ramana, who is retiring on Aug. 26, said Justice Chandrachud has dealt with the BCCI case earlier and even written a judgment in the case.

The Chief Justice noted that the case would be referred to Justice Chandrachud for further hearing.

In an earlier hearing on July 21, the apex court had appointed senior advocate Maninder Singh as its new amicus curiae while adjourning the case.

Maninder had replaced P.S. Narasimha, who was appointed a Supreme Court judge.

The case is significant for BCCI as the date of amendments may decide the tenures of its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

BCCI has urged the court to revise a rule in its new Constitution which mandates that administrators have to go through a three-year cooling-off period after successive years in the BCCI or any State association.

The 'cooling-off period' was a major recommendation made by the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee to reform cricket administration in the country.

In its 2018 judgment, the apex court had seen eye-to-eye with Justice Lodha's conclusion that "the game will be better off without cricketing oligopolies".

For this end, the court had supported the recommendation of the Justice Lodha panel that cricket administrators should undergo a "cooling-off period" before contesting elections to BCCI or state associations.

Priyank named India-A skipper

Sarfaraz and Patidar included in the squad

Priyank. • FILE PHOTO

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Gujarat's Priyank Panchal will lead India-A in the four-day matches against the visiting New Zealand-A team.

The selectors have rewarded consistent performers in the Ranji Trophy. Mumbai's Sarfaraz Khan, who topped the run charts with 982 runs, and Madhya Pradesh's Rajat Patidar, the second-highest run-getter with 658, received a call-up.

The other prominent names include pacers Prasidh Krishna, Umran Malik and spinners Kuldeep Yadav, Rahul Chahar.

The opening game (Sept. 1-4) and the third match (Sept. 15-18) will be played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru while the second contest (Sept. 8-11) will be held at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium, Hubbali.

India-A and New Zealand-A will also play three one-day matches on Sept. 22, 25 and 27 at the MAC Stadium in Chennai.

The India-A squad (for four-day matches):

Priyank Panchal (Capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Tilak Varma, K.S. Bharat (wk), Upendra Yadav (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, Prasidh Krishna, Umran Malik, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal, and Arzan Nagwaswalla.

Rahane to lead West in Duleep Trophy

Ajinkya Rahane. • FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

Ajinkya Rahane is set to take the field in a competitive match after more than three months as the captain of the West Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy to be played next month.

Rahane has been out of action after injuring his hamstring in May during the Indian Premier League. Having missed the Ranji Trophy knockouts in June, he will be looking forward to showcase his hunger for runs.

Rahane is one of the eight players from Mumbai to have been selected for West Zone. Besides him, India regulars Shreyas Iyer and Shardul Thakur will also return to domestic cricket after a long gap.

The squad: Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Tamore, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Shardul Thakur (Mumbai), Rahul Tripathi, Satyajeet Bachhav (Maharashtra), Het Patel, Chintan Gaja (Gujarat), Jaydev Unadkat, Chirag Jani (Saurashtra), and Atit Sheth (Baroda).

Standbyes: Siddharth Desai (Gujarat), Suved Parkar, Armaan Jaffer (both Mumbai).

Kohli compares 2014 slump and current plight

Says he wouldn't have come this far without the ability to counter situations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

He doesn't find any particular pattern to his prolonged slump in form unlike 2014, but then to succeed in international cricket for as long as Virat Kohli has, it couldn't have happened without his ability to counter adversities.

The former India skipper has gone without an international hundred across formats for nearly three years now but he feels that there isn't much scope for course correction.

"I know where my game stands and you cannot run this far in your international career without having the ability to counter situations, counter conditions and counter different kinds of bowling. So, this for me, is an easier phase to process, but I don't want to put this phase behind me," Kohli said on *Star Sports* show 'Game Plan'.

He then spoke how a pattern of dismissals was detected on that tour and then after technical adjustments scored nearly 600 runs during the tour of 2018.

"What happened in England was a pattern, so something that I could work on and something that I had to kind of overcome. Right now, as you rightly mentioned, there is nothing that you can point out saying that the problem is happening here," Kohli noted.

Wind in his sails: Kohli would love to blow away the poor run and score big again. • FILE PHOTO

He feels that when there aren't any patterns, that's the best thing to have happened.

"So, that for me, is actually an easier thing to process because I know that I'm batting well and at times, when I start feeling that rhythm back, then I know that I'm batting well.

"So, that for me is not an issue, which wasn't the case in England (2014). I didn't feel like I was batting well at all. So, I had to work hard on one thing that could be exposed again and again which I overcame; right now this is not the case," he added.

England vows to stick to attacking approach

McCullum promises strong comeback

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England captain Ben Stokes has insisted there will be no let-up in the team's attacking approach as it looks to bounce back in the second Test against South Africa starting on Thursday.

The hosts have arrived at Manchester's Old Trafford 0-1 down in a three-match series following a chastening innings and 12-run defeat inside three days by the Proteas at Lord's last week.

That was their first defeat under the new leadership duo of Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum following a run of four successive wins with an aggressive approach dubbed 'Bazball', characterised by attacking batting that saw England chase down stiff fourth innings targets against New Zealand and India during the past two months.

McCullum said England's problem at Lord's had been a lack of attack.

"I think they were perhaps a touch timid," he said. "We approach the game with a clear mentality about the way we want to play. It's not always going to work. It's not nice at times like this but we'll come back strong."

Ollie Robinson has been recalled for the second Test.

England XI: Zak Crawley, Alex Lees, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes, Ben Foakes, Stuart Broad, Jack Leach, Ollie Robinson, and James Anderson.

South Africa is yet to name its team for the Test.

Diaz's strike helps Mumbai City hold ATK MB

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Former Indian Super League (ISL) champion Mumbai City FC (MCFC) held the 2021 runner-up ATK Mohun Bagan (ATK MB) to a 1-1 draw in a Group B league match of the 131st Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

ATK MB went into the lead in the first half off a nice effort from Liston Colaco before MCFC substitute Pereyra Diaz nodded home the equaliser late in the second half.

Setback

The result dealt a blow to ATK MB's chances of making it to the quarterfinals as the 16-time champion, which lost its opener to Rajasthan United, has tallied just one point after two outings. MCFC is on top with four points from two matches.

Looking for a full quota of points to keep its chances alive in the group, ATK MB started strongly and was rewarded for its efforts towards the end of the first half. Colaco showed why he is valued as one of the best Indian attackers in business as he finished a cross from Asish Rai in the 40th minute.

ATK MB had its chances of finishing the game, but paid for the wastefulness of its attackers later in the game.

As the home side seemed to lose its grip on the action, MCFC made a strong return in the final quarter of the action. Coach Des Buckingham introduced his Argentine striker Diaz, who brought up the equaliser in the 77th minute with a spectacular header to finish a cross from another substitute Sanjeev Stalin.

Slipping away: ATK MB's Colaco leaves the Mumbai City pursuers in his wake. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Goalless draw

In an earlier match, NEROCA FC was held to a goalless draw by the Army Red in a Group C match at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.

NEROCA has four points from two matches, while Army Red is on two from as many matches.

The results: Group B: ATK Mohun Bagan 1 (Liston Colaco 40) drew with Mumbai City FC 1 (Pereyra Diaz 77).

Group C: NEROCA FC 0 drew with Army Red 0.

Juggernauts end the run of Quick Guns

SPORTS BUREAU

Odisha Juggernauts ended Chennai Quick Guns' impressive winning run with a 10-point victory in the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune, on Wednesday.

It was the third successive win for Juggernauts. With this win, Juggernauts entered the top-2 in the table with 12 points and completed a league double over Quick Guns. The Odisha team had won by eight points in the teams' earlier meeting.

In another match, Mumbai Khiladis beat Rajasthan Warriors 56-42.

Arjun holds Robson, stays among leaders

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

Fourth seed Arjun Erigaisi stayed in the joint lead following a 37-move draw with Ray Robson (USA) in the seventh round of the Abu Dhabi Masters chess tournament on Tuesday.

This top-board draw enabled three winners of the day to join the duo in the lead at 5.5 points. Two rounds remain.

Nihal Sarin and S.P. Sethuraman (5 each) drew their encounters to be placed in the second rung. They were joined by the victorious bunch, including Aryan Chopra, Arjun Kalyan (the conqueror of Raunak Sadhwani), Aditya Samant, Soham Kamotra and Harsha Bharathakoti.

The results (seventh round):

Arjun Erigaisi (5.5) drew with Ray Robson (USA, 5.5); Samvel Ter-Sahakyan (Arm, 5) drew with Wang Hao (Chn, 5); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 5.5) bt Evegeny Tomashevsky (CFR, 4.5); Irine Kharishma Sukandar (Ina, 4.5) lost to Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 5.5); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 5.5) bt Aleksandar Indjic (Srb, 4.5).

Nihal Sarin (5) drew with S.P. Sethuraman (5); M. Karthikeyan (4.5) lost to Alexandr Predke (FIDE, 5); Aditya Mittal (4) lost to Sandro Mareco (Arg, 5); Aryan Chopra (5) bt Ziaur Rahman (Ban, 4); Arjun Kalyan (5) bt Raunak Sadhwani (4).

P. Shyaamnikhil (4) lost to Aram Hakobyan (Arm, 5); Aditya Samant (5) bt Temur Kuybokarov (Aus, 4); Soham Kamotra (5) bt Luke Mendonca (4); Harsha Bharathakoti (5) bt Mukhiddin Madaminov (Uzb, 4); B. Adhiban (4.5) bt Kushagra Mohan (4).

Thangaraja, Manu surge into joint lead

Khalin, at nine-under 135, is third; joint-lowest scorer of the day Abhijit is tied fourth

PGTI GOLF

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Sri Lanka's N. Thangaraja is here at the Chennai Open golf tournament with a local caddie, trying to find the right lines to get his putts right on a green that is turning out to be a tad difficult for quite a few players.

The 41-year-old from Colombo, it seems, has found them more often than not as he shot an impressive 5-under 67 to take his two-day tally to 11-under 133 to tie the scores with Manu Gandas who fired a flawless 7-under 65 at the Cosmo-TNGF course on Wednesday.

Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi (68) was third at nine-under 135. Abhijit Singh Chadha (65), the other joint-lowest scorer of the day, was in tied fourth spot at eight-under 136, along with Karandeep Kochhar, the first round leader, who shot a 71 to slip three spots.

Defending champion Mithun Perera of Sri Lanka was tied 20th at two-under 142.

The cut was declared at two-over 146 which saw 57 professionals make it to the money-rounds.

S. Prasanth and Sandeep Syal were the only two Chennai-based players who made the cut.

Manu said, "I'm feeling good about my game right now as I have worked on a few technical things connected with my swing. The conditions were a little different today due to the overnight rain but I adapted well."

Thangaraja said he is slowly finding his groove. "The second hole was tough for me, but I did well to produce a birdie (he had a total of six birdies – three in each nine). I am happy with my tee-shots."

The scores: 1. N. Thangaraja (Sri Lanka) 133 (66, 67); Manu Gandas 133 (68, 65); 3. Khalin Joshi 135 (67, 68); 4. Abhijit Singh Chadha 136 (71, 65); Karandeep Kochhar 136 (65, 71).

In the forefront: An impressive 5-under 67 and a flawless 7-under 65 put Thangaraja and Manu in the van at the end of the second round. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The sport brings a smile to their faces

Mithun and Thangaraja find solace on the golf course

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Sri Lanka is going through one of its worst economic crisis. The island nation recently witnessed a major uprising when people ransacked the President's house in Colombo. Many sportspersons, including cricketers Roshan Mahanama and Sanath Jayasuriya, took part in the protest.

The situation, according to two Sri Lanka's golfers who are taking part in the Chennai Open tournament here, is getting better now.

There were times when Mithun Perera had to wait for days to buy petrol. "We had to wait for days to buy petrol. It was the same for everyone whether you are rich or poor. If you are lucky, you'll get," the 35-year-old told *The Hindu*.

Mithun said the price of petrol was hiked to ludicrous limits. "A litre of petrol went up to ₹2000 in the black market. Now they have a system in place where everyone gets an equal proportion."

A few problems still persist according to Mithun, like if he has to go abroad the maximum amount he can withdraw is $500. "That's the limit," he said.

When asked whether he took part in the protests in Colombo, Mithun, laughing, said, "I am a peaceful man."

While Mithun is optimistic of the present and future of Sri Lanka and its golf, his friend on the tour N. Thangaraja is of the opinion that it will take another four to five years for the nation to limp back to normalcy.

The 41-year-old feels let down by the politicians, who have looted and fled the country. "They (politicians) have only their self-interest. What doesn't Sri Lanka have? It has excellent natural resources. They have failed the country," said Thangaraja.

He wants to play in Dubai and is keen to settle down there once and for all. "I want to compete regularly at the Mena Golf Tour. Last February I went to Dubai and returned to Sri Lanka recently. By the time I came home, everything had returned to normalcy," said Thangaraja.

Positive outlook: Mithun and Thangaraja feel that the situation in Sri Lanka is getting better. • K. KEERTHIVASAN

Gill jumps 45 spots, rises to 38th

Kohli holds on to the fifth position

ODI RANKINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India opener Shubman Gill jumped a whopping 45 places to be ranked 38th in the latest ICC ODI rankings released on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old had a memorable outing in the recently concluded three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe that also saw him score his maiden century in the last game in Harare.

Meanwhile, Virat Kohli, who did not feature in the ODI series against Zimbabwe, held on to his fifth position with rating points of 744. Skipper Rohit Sharma, who was rested for the series against Zimbabwe, was static in the sixth spot.

Veteran Shikhar Dhawan, who scored two half-centuries in the first and third matches respectively, dropped a spot to 12th.

Babar continues to lead

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continues to lead with 891 and is distantly followed by South African Rassie van der Dussen (789).

In the bowling chart, New Zealand's Trent Boult remains on top while the all-rounder's list is led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan.

Gill... a steep climb. • AFP

Azarenka axed from exhibition event

TENNIS

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NEW YORK

Former World No. 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus was Wednesday axed from a planned US Open exhibition event aimed at raising money for war-torn Ukraine, officials said.

Azarenka was to have joined the likes of Rafael Nadal, Coco Gauff, John McEnroe, Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek at the event organised to coincide with Ukraine's Independence Day celebrations.

However, a number of Ukraine players objected to the presence of two-time Major winner Azarenka.

"In the last 24 hours, after careful consideration and dialogue with all parties involved, Victoria Azarenka will not be participating in our 'Tennis Plays for Peace Exhibition'," said the USTA in a statement.

"Vika is a strong player leader and we appreciate her willingness to participate. Given the sensitivities to Ukrainian players, and the on-going conflict, we believe this is the right course of action for us."

Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk, ranked 70 in the world, claimed recently that she turned down the chance to play in Wednesday's event in protest at the presence of Azarenka.

"When we found out that there would be representatives of Russia or Belarus at this event, I immediately said that I will not participate in this," the 20-year-old told reporters.

Azarenka. • FILE PHOTO

Sowjanya advances

SPORTS BUREAU

Sowjanya Bavisetti beat Ashley Lahey of the USA 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Vigo (Spain).

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan fought their way past Fernando Romboli and Arjun Kadhe 3-6, 7-6(7), [10-5] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €45,730 Challenger in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Other results: $37,520 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vishnu Vardhan 6-7(8), 7-6(2), [10-4].

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: First round: Xiao Linang (Chn) bt Rishabdev Raman 6-0, 6-1; Niki Poonacha bt Mikalai Haliak 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Luc Koenig (GBr) & Karunuday Singh bt Daniel Blazka (Cze) & Yash Chaurasia 6-4, 5-7, [10-6].

$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Erika Sema (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Freya Christie & Ali Collins (GBr) 3-6, 7-6(10), [10-5]; Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Ankita Raina bt En Shuo Liang (Tpe) & Fang Ying Xun (Chn) 6-2, 4-6, [10-4].

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: First round: Anastasia Kovaleva bt Smriti Bhasin 6-4, 6-1. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jiang Zijun (Chn) & Tanisha Kashyap bt Nour Gueblaoui (Tun) & Emma Pedretti (Ita) 6-3, 6-3.

Rhythm Sangwan on song in sports pistol

Bandhvi Singh tops 50-metre rifle 3-position event

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Rhythm Sangwan was a cut above the rest as she cruised to the top spot in women's 25-metre sports pistol in the fifth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

The 18-year-old Rhythm, who had won the junior World Cup gold in the event, trailed Abhidnya Patil by one point before the last series. While Rhythm shot a perfect five, Abhidnya could not get a single hit right.

Rhythm and Abhidnya had qualified from the first semifinal pipping Pushpanjali Rana and Neha by one point. World junior champion, 15-year-old Naamya Kapoor placed third ahead of Esha Singh.

Rhythm had qualified on top with 585, six points better than Anisa Sayyed who lost in the second semifinals along with Simranpreet Kaur Brar.

While both Rhythm and Esha skipped the junior semifinals, Simranpreet went on to finish second in the junior event behind Divanshi. Khushi Kapoor placed third ahead of Naamya Kapoor.

In the 50-metre rifle 3-position event at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal, Bandhvi Singh topped by beating Ashi Chouksey 17-7.

Both had qualified with 583, the same score as the third placed Mansi Kathait. Lajja Gauswami, Ayushi Podder, Meghna Thakor and Swapna Bera placed fifth to eighth. Shreya Saksena (578), Gaayathri Nithyanandam, Manini Kaushik, Mehuli Ghosh (577), Apurvi Chandela (573), Sunidhi Chauhan (572) did not make the second stage.

Ashi went on to top the junior event with a 16-8 victory over Ramita Jindal, while Nischal secured the third spot.

The results:

25m sports pistol:

Women: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 31 (11) 585; 2. Abhidnya Patil 27 (11) 577; 3. Naamya Kapoor 22 (12) 575; 4. Esha Singh 14 (11) 578. **Juniors:** 1. Divanshi 24 (11) 573; 2. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 23 (13) 574; 3. Khushi Kapoor 16 (8) 570; 4. Naamya Kapoor 7 (12) 575.

50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Bandhvi Singh 17 (402.5) 583; 2. Ashi Chouksey 7 (400.3) 583; 3. Mansi Kathait 398.2 (583) 4. Priya 396.8 (581). **Juniors:** 1. Ashi Chouksey 16 (403.6) 583; 2. Ramita Jindal 8 (402.2) 572; 3. Nischal 400.0 (577); 4. Nikita Kundu 394.5 (577).

Podium finish: Abhidnya, champion Rhythm and Naamya emerged the best in sports pistol in the National shooting selection trials in Delhi on Wednesday. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mysuru season to have 18 race days

RACING

RIAZ BABU

Eighteen race days have been framed for the Mysuru main season, commencing on August 25 and finishing on October 30.

The Mysore Derby will be run on the concluding day.

Briefing the media in Mysuru, Y.B. Ganesh, chairman of the Mysore Race Club (MRC), said the stake money had increased by 49% as compared to that offered in 2019 and the expected pay out is ₹8 crore for the season.

Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club has consented to sponsor the Mysore 2000 Guineas by contributing ₹10 lakh.

Bookmakers at the MRC have agreed to contribute ₹10 lakh for a race day.

460 horses stabled in Mysuru and 200 outstation horses expected to participate during the season.

Combined totes

The MRC has joined hands with other clubs in india for comingling of totes from all over the country to declare a common dividend which is expected to be attractive.

The combined operation is expected to commence by end of August.

The entrance charges have been fixed at ₹200 for the Mysore races days and for off-course betting days, the entrance charges will be ₹100.

Racing dates: August: 25, 26. **September:** 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 29, 30. **October:** 6, 7, 13, 14, 21, 29, 30.

Emelda primed to deliver in feature

MYSURU: Emelda, who has been well-tuned, is expected to score in the H.H. Sri. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy (1,400m), the feature event of the opening days races to be held on Thursday (Aug. 25). False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 VARADA PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 p.m.: 1. Eco System (6) Rathod 56, 2. Elevado (4) Sarvan K 56, 3. Eye The Mind (9) A. Imran 56, 4. White Lies (3) Janardhan P 56, 5. Desert Romance (11) Nazerul 54.5, 6. Funambulist (5) Darshan 54.5, 7. Lucky Sun (8) Sai Kiran 54.5, 8. Mystic Divine (10) Angad 54.5, 9. Pininfarina (2) G. Rohith 54.5, 10. Romantic Heart (7) B. Harish 54.5 and 11. Ruby Woo (1) R. Pradeep 54.5.

1. EYE THE MIND, 2. MYSTIC DIVINE, 3. LUCKY SUN

2 SOMANATHPUR PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Come Alive (2) Angad 62.5, 2. Samay Balwaan (4) J.H. Arul 62, 3. Shivalik Attitude (3) Santosh K 62, 4. King's Command (9) Srinath 60.5, 5. Vijaya Surabhi (10) N.B. Kuldeep 60, 6. Shivalik Dhanush (15) Md. Imran A 59.5, 7. Diva In Gold (13) Antony 58.5, 8. Jabbar (11) S. Shareef 58.5, 9. Scarlet Princess (7) Rathod 58, 10. Cappadocia (1) Md. Sameer 57.5, 11. Felicita (6) Kiran N 57.5, 12. Double Trouble (5) M. Prabhakaran 56.5, 13. So Far (8) Sarvan K 56.5, 14. Virginia Queen (12) Nazerul 54.5 and 15. Swiss Bay (14) Sai Kiran 52.

1. COME ALIVE, 2. KING'S COMMAND, 3. VIRGINIA QUEEN

3 B.K. KRISHNADEVARAJ URS MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Aquila D' Oro (12) Santosh K 60, 2. Lord Commander (13) Nazerul 58.5, 3. Athulya (2) Angad 58, 4. Crimson Fire (10) B. Darshan 58, 5. Eddie The Eagle (5) Hasib A 58, 6. Socrates (1) Md. Mushraf 57, 7. Wind Power (8) Salman K 56.5, 8. Deimus (3) N.B. Kuldeep 54.5, 9. Kingofthejungle (7) Sai Kiran 54.5, 10. Lovely Thoughts (4) P.S. Rathore 54.5, 11. Gemini (6) S. Shareef 51.5, 12. Silver Day's Again (11) B. Harish 51 and 13. Country's Flash (9) J.H. Arul 50.5.

1. KINGOFTHEJUNGLE, 2. LOVELY THOUGHTS, 3. COUNTRY'S FLASH.

4 STAR OF MYSORE TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 4-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Aberlour (7) Hasib A 60, 2. Court Jester (1) Darshan 60, 3. Rising Sun (10) Sai Kiran 59, 4. Abhinandan (8) Imran Ashraf 57, 5. Cavarozzi (6) Ajay Kumar 57, 6. Flash Bond (4) Hindu S 54.5, 7. Star Of Thea (3) B. Harish 54.5, 8. Drusilla (9) Ayaz Khan 53.5, 9. Sound Of Canon's (2) B. Darshan 53.5 and 10. Furious Fun (5) Salman K 52.5.

1. FLASH BOND, 2. SOUND OF CANON'S 3. RISING SUN

5 H.H. SRI. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 80 & above, 4-00: 1. Make My Way (7) A. Imran 60, 2. Emelda (4) Sai Kiran 57, 3. Segera (6) Md. Mushraf 56, 4. Contributor (2) Hindu S 55.5, 5. Turf Legend (5) Nazerul 55, 6. His Eminence (3) Antony 54.5 and 7. Nothing To Worry (1) Angad 51.5.

1. EMELDA, 2. CONTRIBUTOR

6 LAVASA PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Forest View (6) A. Imran 61, 2. Aurele (3) Srinath 60, 3. Coorg General (4) Salman K 57, 4. Shivalik Sound (1) Imran Ashraf 56.5, 5. Lucky Luciano (5) M. Prabhakaran 55, 6. Antinori (8) Nazerul 54, 7. Coyote Girl (7) Janardhan P 52.5 and 8. Vandan (2) Hindu S 51.

1. AURELE, 2. FOREST VIEW, 3. COORG GENERAL

7 PUNE PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Niche Cannabis (1) Nazerul 60, 2. Percivale (6) Santosh K 59.5, 3. Morganite (7) Afsar Khan 58, 4. Code Of Honour (3) M. Prabhakaran 55.5, 5. Surprise Package (2) Darshan 54.5, 6. Festive Star (4) B. Darshan 53.5, 7. Like My Daddy (5) G. Rohith 53.5 and 8. Impelling Power (8) Sai Kiran 52.5.

1. NICHE CANNABIS, 2. FESTIVE STAR, 3. PERCIVALE

Day's best: **FLASH BOND**
Double: **EMELDA – AURELE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Maharaja Trophy: Women's exhibition matches on August 25 and 26

As part of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament, two exhibition matches will be held between Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters' and Hubli Tigers' women's teams on August 25 and 26 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Matches will start at 2 p.m. and will be streamed live on Fancode.

The squads: Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters: Veda Krishnamurthy (capt.), Shubha Satheesh, Monica C. Patel, Prathyoosha Kumar, Rameshwari Gayakwad, Anagha Murali, Shreyanka Patil, Shishira Gowda, Krishika Reddy, Rohitha Chowdry, Prerana Rajesh, Soumya Verma, Reema Fareed, Savi Surendra and Harshitha Shekar.

Hubli Tigers: Divya Gnanananda (capt), Rakshitha Krishnappa, Sanjana Batni, V. Chandu, Aditi Rajesh, P. Saloni, Sahana S.Pawar, Vrinda Dinesh, Mithila Vinod, C.J. Nirmitha, T. Nethravathi, M. Sowmya, Pooja Kumari, Pooja Dhananjay and Sloka Kishore.

Karthik's 176 sends Jawahar SC (1) to semifinals

S.U. Karthik top-scored with 176 as Jawahar SC (1) secured the first-innings lead over FUCC (2) to progress to the semifinals of the KSCA (Group I) under-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals): Jawahar SC (1) 337 in 72.4 overs (S.U. Karthik 176, Madhav T.Mandayam 42, Md. Sufiyan Sharief 33, Ashish Nayak 39, Shivanshu Tiwari 5/82) & 65/5 in 10.1 overs (Shivanshu Tiwari 3/34) drew with FUCC (2) 197 in 71.5 overs (S. Vishnu Viran 57, Sohan Kallur 36, Nikhil Aithal 37, Vashu Tyagi 35 n.o., Ashish Nayak 3/18).

Jawans CC 93 in 49 overs (Vishal Kumar 3/23, P. Dhruv 3/20) & 61/3 in 20 overs drew with Vijaya CC 426/8 in 90 overs (Thippa Reddy 29, P. Dhruv 71, Prakar Chaturvedi 164, Mit Daxesh Patwa 45 n.o., Shane Ryan 3/84).

Vultures CC 343 in 84.2 overs (Sireesh Balgaar 70, Gyan Somaiah 101, Aarav Shriyan 25, Tanav Prasad 29, K.P. Karthikeya 33, Shikhar Shetty 30, Aryan Jain 4/65) drew with Jawahar SC (2) 223 in 80.4 overs (G. Dhanush 27, S. Ayush 60, Raja Shankar 56, Darsan Reddy 25, Shikhar Shetty 5/77, K.P. Karthikeya 3/41).

Swastic Union CC (1) 212 in 69.3 overs (Bhuvan M.Raju 38, Vikram Kumar 31, Aashish Mahesh 36, S. Abhirath 38, R.J. Mankalesh 3/32) & 55/2 in 13 overs (Vishal Onat 32 n.o.) drew with Swastic Union CC (2) 359 in 85.2 overs (M.B. Shivam 69, S.H. Swaroop 119, Harshil 57, U. Karan 37, Shridhar Jagatap 25, P. Harshith Gowda 3/73, Mohsin Khan 4/114, Vishal Onat 3/25).

All-round show by Hakeem

Eesa Hakeem Puthige's all-round effort (3/26 & 60 n.o.) helped Cambridge CC defeat Century Cricketers in the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club tournament.

The scores: BUCC (1) 165 in 41.3 overs (J. Diyaan 51, Pulkit Tiwari 49, Anirudha S.Athreya 3/14) lost to Swastic Union CC (2) 166/3 in 32.4 overs (Anirudha S.Athreya 49, R. Shiv 56, Rehan Mohammed 27 n.o.).

Chintamani SA 251/9 in 50 overs (Gaurav Raj Urs Ganesh 42, Nachiketh Prabhakar 58, J. Poojith 27, Arnav Sunderraman Iyer 31, Ayaan Haider 3/17) bt Engrades CC 189 in 42 overs (Shankar Beerakabbi 69 n.o., C.V. Vidhur Reddy 3/42, Shreehaan Arinjai 3/31).

Century Cricketers 189 in 43.5 overs (Ishaan N.Yathiraj 93, Keerthi Krishna Hegde 55, Eesa Hakeem Puthige 3/26, Krishav Somasundar 4/45) lost to Cambridge CC 193/4 in 27.3 overs (Pratheek 41, Eesa Hakeem Puthige 60 n.o., Mohammed Waheed Qureshi 58).

Jupiter CA 279 in 48.3 overs (R. Rajkiran 31, M.N. Nishchal 27, Hemang Srinivasan 73, Mohith Prakash 91, Mohammad Aaqib 3/53, Advik Bhat 3/58) bt Jaidur Cricketers 69 in 30.2 overs (Mohammad Aaqib 34 n.o., P. Jeevan 4/18).

Young Lions Club 163 in 41.3 overs (Sridhar Ragunath 56, Vedant Kumar 28, Ansh Agrawal 28, Khush Kothari 3/23) lost to Wilson Garden CC 167/6 in 31 overs (B.R. Abhay Surya 29, Rennell Pais 49, Ansh Agrawal 4/27).

Modern CC 335/9 in 50 overs (Aereeona Alphen 53, V.R. Nitesh Gowda 70, M. Assad 52, Jaikishan Poddar 26, Samyam Vinay 25, Syed Zayeem Aga 30, Vedanth Aradhya 4/54) bt Cavaliers CC 77 in 30.3 overs.

Sir Syed Cricketers 99 in 43 overs (Manik Raj 25, G. Punith Kumar 3/21, C. Kushal 3/14) lost to Herons CC 101/4 in 25 overs (Vishruth Uday Krishna 33, Achaman Sullia 44).

Appu nets late winner

Appu scored a 90th minute winner as Sporting Club Bengaluru edged Rebels FC 3-2 in its BDFA Super Division League debut on Wednesday.

The results: Thanco's Students Union FC 2 (Jaykanani 45+2, Mrinal Muthanna 69) bt ADE FC 1 (Jones Muthuraj 90+1); ASC & Center FC 1 (Elangbam Tondon Meitei 56) drew with Friends United FC 1 (Magesh Selva 76); Sporting Club Bengaluru 3 (D. Arun Kumar 21, Ashish Jha 41, Appu 90) bt Rebels FC 2 (Ernest Addo 71, Sanjib Singh 73).